

1941

1941



COUNTY BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Public Health Department

For Year 1941.

JAMES GRANT, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Glasgow)
Medical Officer of Health.

R. W. WILKINSON, *Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Part I.—Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.	
A. General Remarks ... ... ... ... ...	... 2
B. Social Conditions ... ... ... ... ...	... 2
C. General Statistics ... ... ... ... ...	... 2
D. Vital Statistics ... ... ... ... ...	... 2
E. Ward Statistics ... ... ... ... ...	... 4
Part II.—Health Services of the Area.	
A. Hospital Accommodation ... ... ... ... ...	... 5
B. Clinics and Welfare Facilities ... ... ... ... ...	... 7
C. Maternity and Child Welfare (by Dr. M. B. Herbst). ... ...	... 8
D. School Medical Service. ... ... ... ... ...	... 15
E. Orthopaedic Scheme ... ... ... ... ...	... 15
F. National Health Insurance ... ... ... ... ...	... 17
G. Public Assistance Medical Service ... ... ... ... ...	... 17
H. Gateshead Dispensary ... ... ... ... ...	... 17
I. Gateshead Public Medical Service ... ... ... ... ...	... 17
J. Home Nursing Service ... ... ... ... ...	... 17
K. Ambulance Provision... ... ... ... ...	... 18
L. Laboratory Services ... ... ... ... ...	... 18
M. Mental Deficiency ... ... ... ... ...	... 18
N. Health Education and Propaganda ... ... ... ... ...	... 19
Part III.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.	
A. Water Supply ... ... ... ... ...	... 19
B. Sewerage, Drainage and Closet Accommodation... ...	... 20
C. River Pollution ... ... ... ... ...	... 20
D. Public Cleansing ... ... ... ... ...	... 20
E. Swimming Baths ... ... ... ... ...	... 20
F. Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector (by R. W. Wilkinson). ...	... 20
Part IV.—Housing of the Working Classes.	... 23
Part V.—Supervision of Food.	
A. Milk and Dairies ... ... ... ... ...	... 24
B. Inspection of Meat and other Foods ... ...	... 25
C. Food and Drugs Act... ... ... ... ...	... 26
D. Food Poisoning ... ... ... ... ...	... 27
Part VI.—Prevention and Treatment of Disease.	
A. Infectious Diseases ... ... ... ... ...	... 28
B. Tuberculosis (by Dr. S. D. Rowlands). ... ...	... 29
C. Venereal Diseases—Report of Treatment Centres ... ...	... 34
D. Vaccination—Report of Vaccination Officer ... ...	... 34
E. Cancer ... ... ... ... ...	... 35
F. Welfare of the Blind... ... ... ... ...	... 35
Part VII.—Miscellaneous ... ... ... ... ...	... 35
Part VIII.—Municipal Institutions for the Sick.	
A. Sheriff Hill Isolation Hospital ... ...	... 37
B. Whinney House Tuberculosis Hospital ... ...	... 41
C. Bensham General Hospital ... ...	... 43

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

Herewith I beg respectfully to present my sixth annual report on the health of the Borough. Although subject to various war-time restrictions, I have nevertheless attempted to make the report as full as possible, believing as I do that the public health is a matter about which the Council desires the fullest information and that it is especially in time of war that there appear the gravest dangers to public health.

For years Gateshead suffered acute distress through the large numbers of unemployed, but the man-power demands of the country have remedied this position and brought about considerable economic improvement. Despite this, one has to note, in 1941, a fall in the birth rate combined with increases in the death rate, infantile mortality rate and tuberculosis death rate. All these figures are significant of slight but appreciable deterioration in the public health during the third year of war. The marked increase in the death rate may be explained by the statistical rate having been calculated on a population, from which men in the services have been excluded. On the other hand, no such explanation covers the sharp rise in the infantile mortality rate to a level last recorded in 1936. Pneumonia is probably the dominant factor in this increase. The tuberculosis death rate has been increasing gradually from 1937, but its upward trend has been accelerated during the three war years. These figures do mean that there is no room for complacency regarding the state of public health.

At the same time there is every reason for concern about the housing problem of the town. Suspension of private and municipal house building has caused the continued occupation of houses scheduled before the war to be dealt with by slum clearance. The overcrowded condition of the houses of the Borough at the time of the overcrowding survey has deteriorated still further. I must therefore stress the paramount priority of housing problems in local planning for the post-war period.

In spite of the war, progress continues in the extension of the Council's hospital services, but matters move very slowly indeed due to difficulties in the supply of labour and material.

The condition of the milk supply is of importance. Reference to the appropriate section of this report will show the unsatisfactory state of bacteriological purity in pasteurised and ordinary milk. So far as the latter is concerned, the Medical Officer of Health has no powers to insist on remedial action, unless the milk is associated with an epidemic of disease. With pasteurised milk, difficulties in maintaining the efficiency of pasteurising plant, loss of skilled labour and less efficient handling of milk bottles all play a part in reducing the levels of bacterial purity. In my view, the Milk Marketing Board, which is the organisation responsible for the proper distribution of the milk of the country should pay more attention to securing a safer product. This could be done by more extensive pasteurisation at collecting depots and by some penal action against those milk producers who fail to take steps to produce a hygienic product.

The burden of work falling on the reduced staff of the health department is tremendous. Every effort continues to be made by the staff of assistant medical officers, sanitary inspectors, nurses and clerical staff to carry out normal and war-time duties in spite of the difficulties. Many also continue to give voluntary service in the work of the Civil Defence Casualty Service. I have to acknowledge especially the loyal and able assistance of my deputy, Dr. Margaret B. Herbst, and the other medical officers and to express my thanks to Dr. Westrop for his help in the constitution of Bensham General Hospital.

Your obedient servant,

JAMES GRANT,
Medical Officer of Health.

PART I.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

A. GENERAL REMARKS.

Economic conditions remained unchanged in 1941. The number of unemployed persons diminished still further, but the financial conditions of many of the families had shown an improvement. An impression still remains that the families which are worst off are those in which the father is in the services and the mother left with one or two young children.

The unsatisfactory housing conditions of the Borough continue to deteriorate still further. Houses which were scheduled to be dealt with in 1939 under the Slum Clearance machinery continue in occupation.

B. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

In February, 1941, the town suffered, in common with the whole region, one of the most violent snowstorms in human memory. The fall of snow did an enormous amount of damage to roofs and spouting, while severe frost was responsible for great interference with the ordinary amenities, such as water supply and drainage.

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

The manager of the Employment Exchange summarised the position in December, 1941, as follows:—*Wholly Unemployed*—men 771, women 792, boys under 18, 73, girls under 18, 108. Total 1,744. *On Short Time*—men, 11, women, 102, boys nil, girls, 3. Total, 116.

STATISTICS OF POOR LAW OUTDOOR RELIEF.

By courtesy of the Public Assistance Officer, Mr. E. Waton, the following statistics are included for 1941:—Average weekly number of ordinary “Cases” chargeable—1519, able-bodied “Cases”—61, total cost of relief for the year—£81,792, average weekly number of persons relieved—*Ordinary*—men, 607, women, 1270, children, 1001. *Able-bodied*—men, 41, women, 32, children, 20.

Indoor Relief

Persons chargeable to Gateshead in High Teams Institution at end of year, 283.

C. GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Population (estimated by Registrar-General 1941)	106,820
Population of present Borough (Census 1931).....	124,506
Area of Borough (in acres)	4,470
Number of Inhabited Houses (Valuation Lists 1940)	33,069
Density of Population per acre	23.8
Number of Persons per inhabited house.....	3.2
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1940	£585,948
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£2,285
Rate in the £ levied in 1941-1942	17/6

D. VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1941.

	Males	Females	Total	Rate
<hr/>				
Live Births.				
Legitimate	949	829	1778	
Illegitimate	49	26	75	
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total	998	855	1853	17.3 per 1000 of population.
<hr/>				
Still Births.				
Legitimate	24	26	50	
Illegitimate	--	1	1	
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total	24	27	51	27.5 per 1000 total births.
<hr/>				

Deaths. 890 725 1615 15.1 per 1000 of population.

Excess of Births over Deaths 108 130 238

Infantile Mortality.

Legitimate	95	64	159	90 per 1000 live legitimate births.
Illegitimate	4	2	6	82 per 1000 live illegitimate births
Total ...	99	66	165	90 per 1000 live births.

Maternal Mortality.

a. From Sepsis ...	1	0.53 per 1000 total births.
b. From other causes	8	4.25 per 1000 total births.
Total ...	9	4.78 per 1000 total births.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

a. Pulmonary	78	50	128	1.19 per 1000 of population.
b. Non-Pulmonary	16	10	26	.24 per 1000 of population.
c. All Forms ...	94	60	154	1.44 per 1000 of population.

Deaths from epidemic diseases.

Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	
Diphtheria	13	10	23	
Measles	2	4	6	
Whooping Cough ...	9	13	22	
Enteric Fever	0	1	1	
Diarrhoea, infantile	5	5	10	
Total Zymotic Deaths	29	33	62	.58 per 1000 of population.
Deaths from Cancer	90	83	173	1.61 per 1000 of population.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate reveals a further reduction of 380 on the figure of the previous year, but this reduction includes of course the number of men absent on service with H.M. Forces.

The percentage ratio of deaths of persons over 65 years of age is maintained at 41% of the total deaths.

Births.

The local birth rate of 17.3 is to be compared with the national birth rate of 14.2 per 1,000, and the rate of 14.7 for the large towns of England and Wales.

Deaths.

The death rate of 15.1 per 1,000 is also to be compared with a rate of 12.9 for England and Wales and 14.9 for the great towns.

Diseases responsible for mortality continue to be diseases of the heart and circulation—438, 27% of the total deaths, cancer—173, 10% of the total deaths, tuberculosis—154, 9% of the total deaths, pneumonia—120, 7% of the total deaths.

The infantile mortality rate has unfortunately increased from 71 per 1,000 live births in 1940 to 90 in 1941. This is the highest rate since 1937.

The zymotic death rate has increased from .24 to .58 per 1,000 of population and the tuberculosis death rate of 1.44 per 1,000 represents a continuation of an upward trend which has shown itself since the outbreak of the war.

The maternal death rate is practically stationary as is also the cancer death rate. The following table summarises the statistical rates for the last 10 years.

	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Population	106,820	107,200	116,600	117,000	117,600	119,026	121,200	123,000	124,320	122,500
Births.										
Uncorrected Number	1,554	1,606	1,606	1,695	1,783	1,796	1,903	1,965	1,964	2,078
Net Number	1,853	1,951	2,073	2,011	2,090	2,050	2,202	2,264	2,238	2,369
Birth rate per 1,000 population	17.3	18.1	17.7	17.1	17.7	17.2	18.1	18.4	18.0	19.3
Deaths.										
Registered Crude Rate	1,537	1,422	1,243	1,296	1,478	1,429	1,410	1,474	1,516	1,527
Transferred out	14.3	13.2	10.6	11.0	12.4	12.0	11.6	11.9	12.1	12.4
Transferred in	93	75	60	59	88	73	70	74	92	101
Net Number	171	231	248	233	222	222	269	245	221	213
Death rate per 1,000	1,615	1,578	1,491	1,470	1,612	1,578	1,609	1,645	1,645	1,639
	15.1	14.7	13.1	12.5	13.7	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.2	13.3
Infantile Mortality										
Deaths	165	138	122	133	161	187	199	197	170	224
Rate per 1,000 live births	90.	71.	60.	66.	77	91.	90.	87.	75.	94.
Maternal Death Rate per 1000 total births	4.78	3.5	6.6	2.3	3.6	6.0	5.6	5.9	3.3	6.0
Tuberculosis Death Rate	1.44	1.36	1.18	1.15	1.12	1.12	1.24	1.39	1.37	1.56
Zymotic Death Rate	.58	.24	.26	.50	.45	.77	.52	.69	.53	.58
Cancer Death Rate	1.63	1.62	1.61	1.69	1.67	1.67	1.30	1.43	1.41	1.41

E. WARD STATISTICS.

Ward.	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Tuberculosis Death Rate	Zymotic Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate	Respiratory Diseases Death Rate
North	7825	22.8	18.0	100	2.04	.76	2.04	2.68
North East ...	7110	15.7	14.7	62	2.10	.70	1.26	1.26
North West	12370	18.4	16.5	171	1.53	1.37	.97	1.77
Central	9910	15.9	16.2	69	1.41	.60	2.01	.80
East Central ...	10250	19.8	16.6	113	2.34	.58	1.17	1.46
South Central.....	9970	9.2	13.9	32	.70	.10	1.80	1.10
West Central	9840	15.6	14.5	110	1.31	.50	2.13	1.62
East	15040	18.4	15.4	82	1.72	.59	2.06	2.52
South	11705	17.6	11.6	43	.59	.17	1.11	1.11
West	12800	18.9	14.2	62	1.01	.39	1.64	1.87
	106820	17.3	15.1	90	1.44	.58	1.61	1.65

PART II.—HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

A. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Considerable progress was made in the improvement of hospital facilities serving the Borough. This can be summarised :—

- (1) Extension of the Isolation Hospital at Sheriff Hill (120-150 beds).
- (2) Recommencement of work on the modified scheme for a General Hospital at Sheriff Hill.
- (3) Appropriation of the sick wards of the High Teams Public Assistance Institution to form the Bensham General Hospital (350 beds).
- (4) Approaching completion of the Poole Joint Sanatorium.

(1) Sheriff Hill Isolation Hospital.

During 1941 the Southern pavilion was reconditioned and work on the Eastern pavilion was practically completed by the end of the year. Early in 1942, the Isolation Hospital will provide accommodation for roughly 150 patients without any overcrowding. There remain still to be completed the mortuary, laundry and heating facilities, which are provided in common with the new General Hospital. It is estimated that the laundry and boiler plant scheme will be completed some time in 1942, so that it will then be possible to complete the ground and road lay-out and demolish the old garage block and laundry building. The former administrative block is being retained as an A.R.P. medical rest centre, under the charge of the Public Assistance Officer.

Perusal of the report of the clinical work done in 1941, shows the benefit to the community, no less than 16 different infectious diseases having been treated, many of them simultaneously.

One difficulty that still remains is the absence of steam in three of the reconditioned ward blocks, due to non-completion of the boiler plant. The result is that sterilisation facilities for crockery are not universally available so that considerable risk of cross infection still occurs.

The joint ambulance block providing accommodation for four modern ambulance vans has been completed and is in occupation ; this is intended by the local authority to be the depot of a public ambulance service.

(2) Sheriff Hill General Hospital.

The work of erection of this hospital had been suspended by the Minister of Health in the Autumn of 1940. In the Spring, the Minister of Health personally visited the site along with his officials, and as a result sanctioned the continuation of the work in accordance with the local authority offer, which was to build the project to one storey level throughout, omitting the nurses' home, kitchen arrangements and dining room accommodation for the staff. A high degree of priority was given to the work, which was in active progress at the end of the year, although hampered by difficulties in obtaining labour and materials.

The maternity ward was completed except for internal painting and heating, but this unit, although designed for 25 maternity beds may be used to provide accommodation on the emergency hospital standard for some 80 patients. The single storey general ward accommodation will provide accommodation for 180 patients on the same standard.

Some difficulties can be foreseen in the staffing of the new general hospital due to the absence of a nurses' home and dining and other accommodation, but it is considered that by the use of billeting facilities, the nursing staff can be procured on a non-resident basis for the duration of the war. In practice, however, this may not prove to be satisfactory, so that it may become necessary to complete the residential accommodation for staff before the end of the war.

(3) High Teams Public Assistance Institution—(Bensham General Hospital).

In the report for 1940 it was stated that the local authority was intensively studying arrangements for the better administration of the Public Assistance Institution as an emergency hospital. Early in the year, revision by the Hospital Officer of the emergency hospital accommodation and, in particular, of the casualty beds so as to bring these down to 350 in number, brought the situation into line with reality.

Following upon the Minister's permission to proceed with the erection of the new General Hospital, the local authority decided to appropriate the sick wards (formerly blocks A, B, C and D) as the Bensham General Hospital and included in the scheme the new nurses' home, which was then practically completed. As a temporary measure, Block I of the Institution was also retained as part of the general hospital, by arrangement with the Public Assistance Committee, as was also the old nurses' home.

The date of appropriation was fixed as 1st June and the formal instrument of appropriation was issued some time later.

The new nurses' home was opened on 1st September by the Mayor of Gateshead, and provides accommodation for 45 nurses, the remainder of the nursing staff and the maids being housed in the administrative block and in the old nurses' home. By mutual arrangement the Public Assistance Committee continues to supply cooked food for the patients and laundry facilities through the Institution.

To provide access to the hospital without going through the grounds of the Public Assistance Institution, a new entrance from Saltwell Road at the Bensham Car Terminus was opened.

Following a conference with the Regional Hospital Officer and the Group Officer, Mr. F. C. Pybus, staffing of the hospital was completed by the appointment of one consulting surgeon, two visiting surgeons, two visiting physicians, one radiologist, one orthopaedic surgeon, one throat and nose surgeon and three specialist anaesthetists. Five general practitioners holding E.M.S. Part III appointments were also appointed as anaesthetists. In addition, a resident surgical officer was appointed along with two junior resident officers. Following these changes, Bensham General Hospital began the uphill fight of overcoming the stigma of former poor law association and to perform a gradually increasing amount of excellent clinical work. The townspeople are also beginning to appreciate the services provided at this hospital by the local authority.

4. Gateshead Children's Hospital.

The facilities provided at this Institution remain practically as in peace time. There is accommodation for 45 children, but Ministry of Health supplies will allow the immediate adaptation of 20 beds to the reception of air raid casualties. At the same time, the out-patient department continues to function as a first aid post, staffed entirely by voluntary personnel.

5. Poole Joint Sanatorium.

At the end of the year a meeting took place between the Medical Officers of the constituent Authorities and officials of the Board. It appeared that in the Spring of next year, the children's block of the Institution would be ready for occupation and that Gateshead would have available seven beds for the treatment of tuberculosis. The rest of the accommodation would be made available rapidly in the succeeding months.

6. Grants to Voluntary Hospitals

The Gateshead Borough Council subsidises various voluntary institutions in Newcastle and Gateshead, as detailed in the following list:—

						Annual Payment		
						£	s.	d.
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	...	500	0	0
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	...	126	0	0
Gateshead Nursing Association	...	...	...	...	...	200	0	0
Children's Hospital, Gateshead	...	...	...	...	...	285	0	0
Eye Infirmary, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	0
Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	0
Chest Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	0
Babies' Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0
Gateshead Dispensary	...	...	...	...	...	20	0	0

7 North-Eastern Regional Hospitals Advisory Council

This body, elected at the end of 1940, continued its work under the chairmanship of Lord Eustace Percy. The principal activity during the year was to set up a divisional committee for the Tyneside Northumberland and North Durham Area, to investigate hospital problems peculiar to the area.

8 Arrangements for Special Surgical Treatment

(a) Chest Surgery.

Mr. George Mason, who is in charge of the department of thoracic surgery at the Newcastle General Hospital, has been retained as chest surgeon to the local authority. This arrangement covers consultations in any hospital belonging to the Corporation within the Borough or any case referred by the staff to the Newcastle General Hospital out-patient clinic. It also covers specialist fees for cases under treatment, but not maintenance expenses.

(b) Neurological Surgery.

In August, 1941, a similar arrangement was made with Mr. G. F. Rowbotham, Neurological Surgeon to the Newcastle General Hospital with regard to the treatment of cases from the Borough. The arrangement was made retrospective and dates from 1st April, 1941.

(c) Prostatic Surgery.

Arrangements have also been made for the use of the Prostatic Surgery Department at the Newcastle General Hospital by Gateshead patients. By this scheme, maintenance fees in hospital only are payable meantime.

(d) Deep X-Ray Treatment.

Arrangements were also made with the Newcastle General Hospital for the treatment of Borough patients requiring deep X-ray therapy for malignant diseases.

In all the foregoing arrangements the local authority has power to assess the means of the patient and recover a portion or all of the expenditure involved. For this purpose it was decided at the end of 1941 to appoint an almoner who would also act for Bensham General Hospital and various other health schemes of the local authority.

B. CLINICS AND WELFARE FACILITIES.

(1) GREENESFIELD HEALTH CENTRE.

School Clinic	...	...	...	9 a.m.—9-30 a.m. daily. 4 p.m.—5 p.m. daily—except Saturdays.
Infant Welfare Centre	...	...	...	2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Tuesday and Thursday.
Ante-Natal Clinic	...	...	...	10 a.m. to 12 noon—Wednesday.
Post-Natal Clinic	...	...	...	2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Wednesday and Friday.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	...	...	...	2 to 5 p.m. Monday.
Dental Clinic	...	...	...	9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (Saturday, open till 12 noon only). Also open once per month on Wednesday Evening from 5 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	...	...	...	Twice monthly (largely by appointment).
Ophthalmic Clinic	...	...	...	By special appointment.
Artificial Sunlight Treatment	...	...	...	Daily (by appointment).

(2) GATESHEAD DISTRICT NURSES' HOME.

Ante-Natal Clinic	Tuesday 2 to 4-30 p.m. (District Nurses cases only).
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	--

(3) BENSHAM SETTLEMENT.

Infant Welfare Centre	2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Tuesday and Thursday. (Medical Session—Thursday. Nurses' Session—Tuesday).
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	--

(4) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL, LOW FELL.

Infant Welfare Centre	2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Wednesday (Medical Session).
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

(5) MOORE STREET METHODIST HALL.

Infant Welfare Centre	2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Monday (Medical Session).
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	--

(6) WREKENTON MINERS' WELFARE HALL.

Ante-Natal Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre	9-30 a.m. to 12 noon—Alternate Thursdays.
---	-----	-----	---

(7) VICTORIA ROAD METHODIST CHURCH HALL.

Infant Welfare Centre	10 a.m. to 12 noon—Tuesday. (Medical Session)
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

(8) NEWCASTLE GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Joint Committee Venereal Diseases Clinic for the Tyneside Area. (Medical Officer—Dr. A. E. W. McLachlan).	Medical Officer's Hours—Monday to Friday— 10 to 12 noon and 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday— 11 to 12 noon and 4-30 to 6-30 p.m. Hours for Treatment—7-30 a.m. to 7-30 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays. 10 to 12 noon— Sundays and Holidays.
--	-----	-----	--

(9) BENSHAM HOSPITAL.

Consultations with visiting surgeons	...	Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m.
Consultations with visiting physicians	...	Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

C MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

(Report by Dr. Margaret B. Herbst):

1. MIDWIVES.

Thirty-five midwives notified their intention to practise midwifery in the Borough. All these are qualified by examination and possess the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board.

Routine visits have been paid to the midwives practising in the Borough, and inspections made of their register of cases, temperature charts, ante-natal records, bags and appliances.

8 midwives had their bags, appliances and clothing disinfected during the year.

2. BIRTHS.

There were 1,853 live births registered during 1941.

Of the total live births, 998 were males and 855 females. This represents a birth rate of 17.3 per 1,000 of the population, showing a decrease of .8 per 1,000 from 1940. 75 births (49 males and 26 females) or 4 per cent, were illegitimate.

Attended by	No. of Live Births	No. of Still Births
Doctors ...	285	10
Midwives ...	1018	23
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital—		
(a) In wards ...	224	12
(b) At home ...	82	1
Bensham Hospital...	119	4
Nursing homes including Dilston Hall		
Maternity Home ...	73	—
Craigielea Nursing Home ...	52	1

In 278 of the doctors' cases a registered midwife was in attendance as a maternity nurse.

Stillbirths.

There were 51 stillbirths during the year, of these 24 were males and 27 females. All the stillbirths were investigated during the year and of these 39 were at full term, 4 had reached the eighth month and 8 the seventh month of gestation.

3. WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS.

SUMMARY OF HOME VISITS.

Infants.

	At Six Months.
Born at full term	1458
Prematurely.....	47
	Breast fed 594
	Partially breast fed 142
	Artificially fed 761

Visits to Infants under 1 year :—

First visits after notification	1780
No. of revisits	6351
No. of Stillbirths visited	51
Visits to children 1—5 years	15349

Visits to Expectant Mothers :—

First visits.....	330
No. of revisits	64

Miscellaneous Visits :—

	1st Visit	Revisit	Total
Puerperal disease.....	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	24	29
Pemphigus	1	—	1
Measles	—	—	1462
German Measles	—	—	6
Whooping Cough	—	—	688
Poliomyelitis	—	—	2
Pneumonia.....	188	16	204
Diarrhoea	—	—	2
Meningitis	—	—	34
Chicken Pox	—	—	1
Scabies.....	—	—	491
Refugees	—	—	75
Midwives	15	5	20
Tuberculosis	262	2121	2383

The total number of visits paid by health visitors during the year was 29,324

4. ANTE-NATAL CARE.

SUMMARY OF WORK AT CLINICS.

The following is a summary of the attendances at the various clinics :—

Centre	No. of Sessions	No. of 1st visits	No. of Revisits	Total Attendances	Average per Session
Greenesfield ...	153	1003	2009	3012	19.68
District Nurses' Home	50	284	480	764	15.28
Wrekenton ...	25	16	10	26	1.0
	228	1303	2499	3802	—

The following are the particulars of mothers who attended the clinic during the year :—

684 live births.
24 still births.
5 miscarriages.
16 left the district.
38 not pregnant.
536 were undelivered at the end of 1941.

25 mothers were advised to consult their own doctors, and 12 were sent to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital.

5. MATERNAL WELFARE.

(a) Maternal Mortality

During the year 9 women died from conditions associated with pregnancy and parturition. This was 2 more than last year.

The following is an analysis of the cases :—

Cas No.	Age	Midwife Attending	Doctor Attending	Booked Hospital Cases	Removed to Hospital	Cause of Death
1.	44	—	Yes	—	Yes	1. a Pulmonary Embolism b Septic Incomplete abortion (natural)
2.	34	—	—	Yes	Yes	2. Anaemia Pulmonary Embolism Parturition
3.	34	—	—	Yes	Yes	Congestive heart failure Mitral stenosis, Caesarian section
4.	34	—	Yes	—	Yes	Haemorrhage due to rupture of ectopic gestation
5.	27	Yes	—	—	—	Post Partum haemorrhage Retained placenta.
6.	26	—	Yes	—	Yes	Ante partum haemorrhage Polyneuritis, Hyperemesis Toxaemia of pregnancy
7.	35	Yes	—	—	Yes	Pulmonary oedema. Post partum eclampsia
8.	26	Yes	—	—	—	Toxaemia of Pregnancy & Post partum haemorrhage
9.	39	—	—	Yes	Yes	Eclampsia Delusional insanity

(b) Puerperal Pyrexia.

The following is an analysis of the cases notified under the regulations :—

Case No.	Attendance	Removed to Hospital	End Result	Remarks
1.	Midwife ...	No	Recovered	Adherent membrane
2.	Midwife ...	No	Recovered	Perineal tear, patient had cough
3.	Midwife ...	No	Recovered	Transient pyrexia
4.	Doctor ...	No	Recovered	Ante-partum haemorrhage : bad laceration of perineum
5.	Midwife ...	No	Recovered	Breasts engorged and cracked nipples
6.	Midwife ...	No	Recovered	B.B.A. Ruptured perineum, breast abscess
7.	Doctor ...	Yes	Recovered	Measles
8.	Hospital Doctor ...	—	Recovered	Forceps delivery. Bimanual removal of adherent placenta.
9.	Doctor ...	No	Recovered	Developed phlegmasia Alba Dolens
10.	Midwife ...	Yes	Recovered	Rise in temperature first day after delivery which was normal

(c) Emergency Cases.

(Treated by Doctors under Midwives Act).

In 320 cases, where a doctor was not previously engaged, medical aid was called by the midwife for the mother, infant or both.

In 258 cases the medical aid was for the mother for the following emergencies :—

		DOCTORS CALLED BY	
		Municipal Midwives	D.N.A. Midwives
Albuminuria	...	4	—
Oedema of feet: high blood pressure	...	—	1
Rupture of Perineum	...	89	35
Malpresentation	...	9	6
Adherent Placenta	...	5	1
Prolonged labour	...	22	22
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	10	2
Post Partum Haemorrhage	...	6	1
Ante Partum Haemorrhage	...	7	3
Maternal Distress	...	2	1
Miscarriage	...	5	5
Disproportion	...	2	1
Threatened eclampsia	...	2	—
Oedema of cervix	...	1	—
Uterine inertia	...	4	3
Foetal Distress	...	3	—
Sore throat and inflamed breast	...	1	—
Toxaemia of pregnancy	...	1	1
Mastitis	...	1	—
Pains in legs	...	1	—
Growth of vaginal wall	...	1	—
		176	82

In 62 instances the medical aid was for the infant.

		Municipal Midwives	District Nursing Association
Haematemesis	...	2	—
Jaundice	...	4	—
Cyanosis	...	3	—
Prematurity	...	4	3
Spina Bifida	...	2	2
Sudden death of infant	...	1	—
Dangerous feebleness	...	5	5
Watery blisters	...	—	5
Rash	...	—	2
Still birth	...	—	1
Sticky eyes	...	5	3
Cough	...	1	3
Cord torn	...	1	—
Asphyxia livida	...	2	1
Deformed feet	...	1	1
Convulsions	...	1	—
Impetigo	...	—	1
Foetal distress	...	1	—
Large caput	...	1	—
Mastitis	...	1	—
		35	27

Hospital Accommodation for Maternity Cases.

The local authority pays for the use of 5 beds in the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital.

The following is a summary of the Gateshead cases admitted to this hospital during the year :—

Live births	224	Chronic Nephritis	1
Still births	12	Hyperemesis	2
Abortions	11	Toxaemia of pregnancy	1
Threatened miscarriage	1	Ruptured ectopic gestation	1
Removal of Retained placenta	1	Repair of complete perineal laceration	1
Pyelitis	3		

Of the 224 live births, 206 were delivered normally, 11 by Caesarean section, and 7 had forceps deliveries.

There are also 12 beds in the Maternity ward of the Bensham General Hospital and there were 119 live births in 1941.

The Ministry of Health Emergency Maternity Hospitals, especially that at Dilston Hall, were utilised by Gateshead residents in 1941, when 73 births took place.

Nursing Home.

A nursing home situated at Craigielea, Low Fell, is registered to take 5 maternity cases. During the year 53 cases were delivered in the home.

(d) Assistance by Local Authority.**Consultant and Emergency Service.**

During 1941, the local authority arrangements were used on five occasions, once the consultant alone and on four occasions the emergency team being called to attend obstetrical cases.

Home Helps.

The names of several home helps are kept on a register at the health department. This service was not used during the year.

Midwifery Outfits

Midwifery outfits, containing clothing and bed linen, necessary for both mother and infant are loaned out from the ante-natal clinic.

During the year 25 patients availed themselves of these outfits.

(e) Municipal Midwifery Scheme—(Midwives Act, 1936).

The following is a summary of the work done by the municipal midwives :—

Midwife	No. of Cases		No. of Morning Visits	No. of Evening Visits	Ante-Natal Visits
	Attended as Midwife	Attended as Mat. Nurse			
1.	68	14	986	150	430
2.	62	10	1027	224	320
3.	35	41	1180	241	251
4.	84	10	1139	198	395
5.	65	13	1035	234	398
6.	73	13	1063	169	265
7.	91	1	1068	194	359
8.	64	14	1123	250	407
9.	40	45	1125	274	554
10.	4	6	154	42	45
11.	47	17	927	207	285
12.	13	9	296	62	48
13.	17	5	280	72	39
	663	198	11403	2317	3796

The District Nurse Midwives are not booked individually, but take the cases in turn. The following is a summary of the work done by them :—

Attended as Midwife	No. of Cases		No. of Morning Visits	No. of Evening Visits	Ante-natal Visits
	Attended as Midwife	Attended as Maternity Nurse			
287		88	5101	1318	1422

The following is a synopsis of the above cases :—

	No. of Cases	Live Births	Still Births	Mis-Carriage	Sent to Hospital	Maternal Deaths
Municipal Midwives ...	861	820	21	2	18	—
District Nurse Midwives	375	353	12	4	6	—
	1236	1173	33	6	24	—

There were 9 cases of puerperal pyrexia among the above cases.

In 320 cases, where a doctor was not previously engaged, medical aid was called by the municipal midwives or district nurse midwives for the mother, infant or both.

The following is a statement of the fees :—

	f	s.	d.
Cash sent to Borough Treasurer	1,493	16	6
Cash collected by Borough Treasurer's Department	468	3	6
Amount written off by Committee	55	11	0

6. POST NATAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held in the Greenesfield Health Centre on Friday afternoons; 50 sessions were held and 92 mothers attended for the first time and made a total of 173 attendances.

The following conditions were noted :—

Anaemia	19	Cystocele	5
Carious teeth	3	Rectocele	1
Coccydynia	1	Vaginal discharge	3
Retroverted uterus	1	Uterine prolapse	1
Mastitis	1	Bronchitis	3

7. Infantile Mortality.

There were 165 deaths among infants under the age of one year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 90 per thousand live births. This is an increase of 19 over last year.

59 or 35.7% of the total deaths occurred in children under the age of 1 month.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1941

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under four weeks.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	T.	M.	F.	I.
All Causes	Certified	33	7	6	10	56	32	33	17	16	154	92	62
	Uncertified	3	—	—	—	3	3	4	1	—	11	7	4
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	3
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	5	12	6	6
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Tuberculous Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	—
Meningitis—Not Tuber- culous	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Convulsions	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	—	7	4	3
Laryngitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	5	1	—	8	4	4
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	1	15	16	8	5	45	25	20
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	4	2	—	10	5	5
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Syphilis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation (overlying)	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	1	2
Injury at Birth	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	2	1
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital Defects	7	1	3	4	15	3	2	—	—	—	20	12	8
Premature Birth	21	2	1	1	25	1	—	—	—	—	26	20	6
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	2	1	—	2	5	4	2	—	—	—	11	9	2
Other Causes	—	2	—	—	2	1	3	1	3	10	7	3	—
TOTALS	36	7	6	10	59	35	37	18	16	165	99	66	

8. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The following summarises the work done at various centres during the year :—

Centre	No. of Sessions	First Visits of Infants	Re-visits of infants	First visits of children 1-5 years	Re-visits of children 1-5 years
Wrekenton...	26	28	290	20	332
Victoria Road	50	133	1110	99	646
Moore Street	49	161	1313	149	954
Low Fell ...	53	214	2521	129	993
Bensham ...	100	310	2728	226	1939
Greenesfield	100	499	2745	358	2313
	378	1345	10707	981	7177

Centre	Total No. of attendances	Average Attendance at Drs. Session	Average Attendance at Nurses Session	Infant Examinations by Medical Officer	Average No. of Consultations per Session
Wrekenton	670	25.76	—	253	9.73
Victoria Road	1988	39.76	—	794	15.88
Moore Street	2577	52.60	—	973	19.85
Low Fell ...	3857	72.77	—	1006	18.98
Bensham ...	5203	51.3	54.8	1242	25.8
Greenesfield House	5915	64.2	44	2296	31.02
	20210	54.3	51.2	6564	21.7

Treatment.

During the year 464 children were referred to the minor ailments clinic; they made 2,768 attendances.

The conditions treated were as follows :—

Ringworm—Head	—	Conjunctivitis.....	37
Body	1	Keratitis and Corneal Ulcers	6
Scabies.....	88	Other Eye conditions	8
Impetigo	80	Otitis Media	36
Septic Sores	17	Cerumen	2
Eczema and Dermatitis	16	Diphtheria Carriers	9
Other Skin conditions	95	Other Defects.....	76
Blepharitis	6		

59 children were referred to the refraction clinic, the following are the particulars:—

No. of appointments made	59
No of appointments kept.....	53
No. for whom Spectacles were prescribed	41
No. who obtained Spectacles	34

Voluntary Workers.

As in previous years the voluntary workers have rendered great assistance at all the centres. Their services are very much appreciated. These ladies give up a great deal of their time to the work and attend regularly every week or fortnight as they arrange among themselves. Some of them make tea for the mothers, whilst others assist with the clerical work. They also interest the mothers in sewing and knitting for their children and give a great deal of helpful instruction to these mothers.

9. THE NURSERY SCHOOL.

This school at Bensham Grove Settlement was reopened on October 1st and children were taken in a few at a time in order to allow them to settle down. By the end of the year about 50 places had been filled.

10. ASSISTED MILK AND OTHER FOOD SOLD DURING 1941.

1,174 packets of Dried Milk, 6,802 half pounds of Virol, 2,917 half pounds of Numol, 861 lbs. of Malt and Oil, 2,915 tins of Maltoline, 278 tins of Ovaltine, 230 tins of Colact, 1,481 lb. tins of Halimalt, 45 packets of Malted Milk, 24 packets of Virol and Milk, 1 packet of Lactogen and 1 packet of Secway were issued at various prices at the Welfare Centres. Receipts amounted to £743 15s. 1½d. against a cost of £740 6s. 8d.

11. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Public Health Act, 1936—Sections 206-220.

On January 1st, 1941, there were 11 children on the register, 7 males and 4 females. During the year 6 additions were made to the register, and 7 were removed from the register for the following reasons:—

Admitted to Hospital (Mental Condition)	1
Legally adopted	1
Over age	1
Returned to relatives	4

At the end of the year there were 10 children on the register, 8 males and 2 females.

12. OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 5 cases notified during the year, and two were sent into Sheriff Hill Isolation Hospital; the others were treated at home either by the health visitors or district nurses. The vision was unimpaired in all cases.

13. ULTRA VIOLET RAY THERAPY.

The following is a summary of the numbers who have attended and of the results of treatment so far as they can be ascertained.

EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.					
Reason for Treatment	No. Treated	Result			
		Improved	Stationary	Worse	Lapsed
General Debility and Anaemia	4	3	1	—	—
	4	3	1	—	—

CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS.					
Reason for Treatment	No Treated.	Result			
		Improved	Stationary	Worse	Lapsed
Rickets	117	83	14	3	17
Sub-normal nutrition	58	49	5	2	2
Anaemia	3	3	—	—	—
Bronchitis	8	5	1	—	2
Enlarged Cervical Glands ...	5	5	—	—	—
	191	145	20	5	21

14. HOSPITAL TREATMENT FOR AILING CHILDREN.

Children found at the Infant Welfare Centres to be suffering from defects are sent to:—

- (a) The Children's Hospital, Gateshead.
- (b) The Babies' Hospital, Newcastle.
- (c) The Royal Victoria Infirmary.

171 children were referred to the Gateshead Children's Hospital for the following reasons :—

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	37
Phimosis	69
Umbilical or inguinal hernia	36
Undescended testicles	5
Tongue tied	4
Feeding dyspepsia	4
Thread worms	2
Miscellaneous	14

6 children were sent to the Royal Victoria Infirmary for the following reasons :—

Pyloric stenosis	2
Naevus	1
Webbed fingers and toes	1
Meibomian Cyst	2

Special Cases.

Two deaf and dumb children under the age of 5 years are resident in the Deaf and Dumb Institution in Manchester. Both are making satisfactory progress.

15. DENTAL TREATMENT OF MOTHERS AND OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS

The following is a summary of the work done :—

Pre-School Children.

Number inspected.....	207
Number treated	189
Number of extractions—	
General anæsthetic	1070

Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

Number examined (new cases)	226
Number treated	448
Number of attendances for treatment	826
Number of extractions—	
Local.....	109
General	2501
fillings	4
Other operations	8
Dentures fitted	238

MARGARET B. HERBST, M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

D. SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

A separate report for the school medical service is published by the Education Committee, but it has been customary to include a short statement in this annual report.

The number of elementary school children in the Borough attending school was estimated to be 15,900 in the middle of 1941 and at the same time 1,405 children were estimated to be in reception areas. Throughout the year the schools were gradually opened and utilised so that at the end of the year all the schools in the Borough were functioning normally. The Open Air School, Bensham Road Nursery School and the Special Classes for Dull and Backward children were re-established, while "parlour" schools were abandoned by the middle of the year.

A feature of the school medical service in 1941 was the systematic immunisation of children under 9 years of age against diphtheria.

E. ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME.

(Report by Mr. J. K. Stanger, F.R.C.S., Orthopaedic Surgeon).

The Orthopaedic Scheme continued to operate as in previous the year, 24 sessions being held by the Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Greenesfield Health Centre, and one session at the Open Air School.

149 consultations were given to new cases, and 333 re-inspections were made.

Of the new cases seen by the orthopaedic surgeon, 109 were school children, (15 of whom attended the open air school and were seen for the first time), and 180 were re-inspections.

31 new cases were seen, and 127 re-inspections were made, of Maternity and Child Welfare cases.

30 cases sent by the Tuberculosis Officer were seen ; 7 of these were new cases, whilst of those over school age there were 2 new cases and 3 inspections.

The following defects were recorded :—

Flat feet	114
Foot deformities other than flat foot	105
Amputations	4
Postural defects	43
Fractures and other traumatic conditions	21
Rickets and post rachitic deformities	106
Diseases of the Nervous system, including infantile paralysis, Erb's palsy and spastic conditions	51
Perthe's disease	4
Congenital dislocation of the hip	5
Old tuberculous joints	9
Non-tuberculous joints	2
Osteitis	7
Miscellaneous	11

During the year 22 maternity and child welfare cases and 29 school children were discharged.

44 cases were recommended for orthopaedic appliances, and 29 had been supplied up to the end of the year.

3 sessions per week were set apart for the re-inspection of splints and appliances.

24 cases were recommended for operative treatment, and up to the end of the year 33 operations had been performed at the Bensham General Hospital, 11 of these being on school children and 20 on children under 5 years. The operations performed were for the following defects :—

Flat feet	5
Pes cavus	1
Volkman's Ischaemic contracture	1
Spastic diplegia.....	1
Osteitis	2
Joint deformities	3
Talipes	11
Genu varum	5
Congenital dislocation of hip.....	3
Pertheis disease	1

58 patients requiring massage and remedial exercises attended the Greenesfield Clinic twice weekly for the following defects. In addition, 11 children were so treated at the open air school. Of this number (69), 64 were school children.

Defects.	No. of Cases	Total No. of Treatments
Flat Feet	43	571
Talipes	2	16
Perthe's disease	1	3
Scoliosis	16	244
Spastic diplegia	1	2
Spastic hemiplegia	1	38
Volkman's Ischaemic contracture.....	1	4
Peripheral neuritis	1	6
Congenital sternomastoid tumour.....	1	12
Fibrositis	2	14
Total	69	910

There has been a closer co-operation between the orthopaedic clinic and the Bensham General Hospital, at which Mr. Stanger has held a weekly open clinic, and has generally supervised the more difficult fractures and other orthopaedic conditions.

The greatest difficulty to be overcome in Gateshead in connection with this orthopaedic scheme has been the lack of co-operation on the part of the parents and guardians of the children. The troubles experienced for the most part fall into three categories.

- A. Failure to attend for examination or re-examination.
- B. The refusal of treatment which has been advised.
- C. A failure to help in the provision of appliances, and when these have been provided, a failure to see that they are worn regularly and kept in good repair.

Certain of these delinquencies have amounted almost to criminal neglect, but in the majority merely lack of interest in the treatment of minor defects, such as flat foot, and in the case of rickety deformities, of which there are many, a marked hostility toward any suggestion of surgical intervention. Much valuable time and effort has been wasted because of this.

Another point which appears worthy of comment is the enormous proportion of cases attending the orthopaedic clinic, who were also found to be suffering from scabies.

F. NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

From Mr. A. Morris, Secretary to Gateshead National Health Insurance Committee, the number of insured persons on the Index Register is given as 48,452, a decrease of 1,851 on the previous year. There were 75 doctors under agreement with the Committee, of whom 29 have more than 500 persons on their lists. There are 42 firms of druggists under agreement to supply drugs.

Of the 37 practitioners mainly practising within the Borough, 10 were on service with H.M. Forces at the end of the year.

G. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL SERVICE.

Return of work in 1941.

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Received Medical and Outdoor Relief	940	1044	377	2361
Received Medical Relief only	171	181	135	487
	1111	1225	512	2848

This total of 2,848 is half that of last year.

H. GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

I am indebted to Dr. J. C. Hall, Resident Medical Officer, for the following information. There were 1,656 letter patients (957 home patients and 699 outpatients) and 19,464 casual patients, 288 accident cases, a grand total of 21,408 patients treated, as compared with 19,744 last year.

The Public Assistance Committee gave a donation of £20 in 1941.

I. GATESHEAD PUBLIC MEDICAL SERVICE.

Since 1925 this area has been served by a Public Medical Service established by the Medical Practitioners of the town for the dependants of insured persons and others who are unable to pay the usual fees for medical service. 37 practitioners are members of the scheme, the administrative details of which are managed by Mr. John Mitchell.

The area covered by the scheme was in 1940 extended so as to include surrounding districts and at the end of 1941, 25,000 persons were covered by the scheme, an average of 675 per practitioner.

J. HOME NURSING SERVICE.

The Gateshead District Nursing Association employs 1 superintendent nurse, 1 assistant superintendent nurse, 12 nurses and 5 nurse midwives, all of whom are state registered, and live in the Association's Nurses' Home, Coatsworth Road, which also includes premises used as an ante-natal clinic.

The 5 nurse-midwives employed form part of the local authority's provision of midwives under the Act of 1936.

The home nursing service, maintained for medical and surgical nursing in the home, takes up the time of the 12 nurses.

Altogether 1,257 cases were nursed, entailing 29,780 visits to the homes of the sick. Of the cases attended at home 841 were referred by private practitioners, 168 by friends of patients, 32 by district medical officers, 76 by dispensary doctors and 12 transferred from Midwifery Service. Nursing appliances were loaned to 305 cases.

The visits to sick persons were classified as follows :—

Provident members	16,371
Necessitous cases (free)	6,882
Paying patients	1,870
Dispensary patients	2,870
Public Assistance Cases	1,562
National Health Insurance patients	225

K. AMBULANCE PROVISION.

The Corporation provides five ambulances as follows :—3 administered by the health department mainly for use in servicing the Isolation Hospital and Whinney House Sanatorium, one for servicing Bensham General Hospital and one administered by the police for street accidents. The oldest ambulance administered by the health department is kept in reserve for use in case of breakdown. Private provision of ambulances is made by two private firms and also by a public works within the Borough. The emergency A.R.P. ambulances, 32 in number, are used freely for street accidents and emergency illnesses.

L. LABORATORY SERVICE.

Report of Health Department Laboratory at Greenesfield House.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for diphtheria bacilli	537	1699	2236
Sputa for tubercle bacilli	123	314	437
Cerebro-spinal fluids for organisms	—	—	28
Smears for gonococci	—	—	43
Pus for organisms.....	—	—	6
Urine for microscopic examination.....	—	—	5
Miscellaneous.....	—	—	3
		Total	2758

Report of College of Medicine, Bacteriological Laboratory.

(a) General Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

T.T. milk	4
Accredited milk	1
Pasteurised milk.....	10
Ordinary milk	6
	—
	21

(b) Milk for tubercle bacilli	5
(c) Bacteriological Examination of Water.....	36
(d) Faeces Culture	67
(e) Agglutination tests	34
(f) Suspected Foodstuffs	5
(g) Virulence tests of swabs.....	10
(h) Wassermann and Kahn tests	23
(i) Cerebro-spinal fluids	21
(j) Urine	33
(k) Specimens from V.D. Treatment Centre and Hospitals.	

1. Wassermann tests—blood	81.5
2. " " cerebro-spinal fluid	33
3. Other examinations of cerebro-spinal fluid	21
4. Gonococcal complement fixation test	224

M. MENTAL DEFICIENCY ADMINISTRATION.

During the year, the following were admitted to institutions :—

	Males	Females	Total
Under 16 years of age	2	1	3
Over 16 years of age.....	3	2	5
	5	3	8

The number of defectives remaining under care is as follows :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
In Certified Institutions :—			
Under 16 years of age	12	12	24
Over 16 years of age.....	60	62	122
On licence from Institutions	7	4	11
Under guardianship	5	9	14
Under Statutory Supervision	74	67	141
In Poor Law Institutions—not certified	12	12	24
In Institutions to which the Authority contribute under permissive powers	6	8	14
In Institutions, maintained by parents	2	1	3
Awaiting Institutional Care.....	1	2	3
	179	177	356

A further 3 defectives, 1 male and 2 females, belonging to Gateshead are maintained by the State in Rampton Institution.

N. HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROPAGANDA.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Health Immunisation Campaign, arrangements were made to have slides shown in the local cinemas giving details of the local scheme for diphtheria immunisation. Leaflets were also distributed in the Council clinics and throughout the schools describing the scheme and cards were issued to the school children for use by the parents in making appointments for immunisation to be carried out.

Propaganda against uncleanliness and skin diseases has also been carried out continuously during the year.

PART III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

A. WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Company's monthly statement of "Water in Store", expressed in terms of "million gallons", showed a variation between 5,345 in January to 2,584 in September, with a rise to 3,695 in December. Samples of the supply were taken each month and the following are the results for those examined in January, June and November.

BACTERIOLOGICAL TESTS.

Source	Gravitation Main	Beacon Lough Reservoir	Carr Hill Reservoir
	January	June	November
Tests.			
(1) Coli-aerogenes "Presumptive"	0	0	0
(2) Total colonies developing on agar at 37°C (48 hours).....	20	17	9
(3) Total colonies developing on agar at 20°—22°C (3 days)	340	75	15
(4) Streptococci	Negative	Negative	Negative
Comment	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

NOTE.—3 samples were not satisfactory due to the presence of B. Coli organisms.

During the rest of the year, the samples were all reported as satisfactory.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Source	Gravitation Main	Beacon Lough Reservoir	Carr Hill Reservoir
	January	June	November
1. Total solid matters in solution.....	22.200	14.600	16.000
2. Chlorine (as Chlorides)	1.237	1.065	1.242
3. Free Ammonia	0.020	0.018	0.005
4. Albuminoid Ammonia	0.006	0.008	0.011
5. Nitrogen (as Nitrates).....	0.040	0.033	0.053
6. Oxygen absorbed (4 hours)	0.295	0.174	0.275
7. Lead and copper.....	None	None	None
8. Iron	None	None	None
9. Hardness before boiling.....	19.7°	12.0°	8.3°
10. Hardness after boiling 1 hour	8.5°	5.6°	2.1°
11. Appearance and colours	Slightly turbid	Clear	Clear
12. Smell and taste.....	None	None	Faint earthy
13. Microscopical examination of deposit	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

The Water Company was informed of the results, and took prompt steps to flush and cleanse their water mains in cases where complaints were made.

B. SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The only matter to be commented upon under this heading is the occurrence on 10th March, of extensive flooding in the vicinity of Newall Terrace, Liddell Terrace and Eslington Park, at the Whickham boundary of the Borough. Here it would appear that when there is excessive rainfall, coupled with a high Spring tide, drainage is impeded, with the result that frequently in past years there has been a degree of flooding. In 1941, however, the flooding was really severe and 11 houses were rendered untenable on the ground floor for a period varying from a week upwards. The flood subsided within three or four days, but recourse had to be made to the help of the A.F.S. in dealing with the matter. It is evident that the Corporation and the Whickham Urban District Council must combine together to work out a scheme for the better drainage of the area concerned, and this should be given priority in schemes of post-war construction.

C. RIVER POLLUTION.

The pollution of the River Tyne continues to increase.

D. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The work of public cleansing was carried out during the year and no complaint was received in connection with the collection of refuse.

I am indebted to Mr. R. H. Storer, F.Inst.P.C., Cleansing Superintendent, for a summary of the year's work.

Collection of House and Shop Refuse.

Details of Receptacles :—

No. of Ashbins and Dry Boxes	34998
No. of Box Closets.....	41
No. of Dry Ashpits	40

Collection.

The total number of calls for ashbins and boxes at all classes of premises for refuse during the year was 1,687,273.

Salvage of waste materials has been continued during the year in the National interest. The amount collected and returned to industry amounted to 1,556 tons, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwts. and the value £6,905 2s. 1d., as against 949 tons, 16 cwts. and the value of £3,743 17s. 8d. disposed of during the previous year.

Disposal.

The tonnage of refuse collected and disposed of during the year was as follows :—

House and Shop Refuse.....	31457
Street Sweepings and Gully Contents	1989

The whole of this refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping on land owned by the Corporation as follows :—

Church Quarries.....	16130 tons	Farnacles.....	17316 tons
----------------------	------------	----------------	------------

Street Cleansing.

There are 119.4 miles of roads, streets and lanes within the Borough, all of which are regularly cleansed.

E. SWIMMING BATHS.

Water from the Public Swimming baths at Mulgrave Terrace was examined, after considerable use and found to be effectively chlorinated and clear. The new public baths at Shipcote Lane, Alexandra Road, were nearing completion at the end of the year and will be a valuable addition to the amenities of the Borough.

F. REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1) INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES.

Complaints received and dealt with :—

From Householders :—

General Defects	1067
Verminous Conditions	72
From Health Visitors and other departments	30
Total	1169

Sanitary Inspection.

Notices Issued.

Notices were served upon owners, agents and tenants requiring the abatement of nuisances and repair of dwellings, drains, sanitary conveniences, etc.

No. of Informal Notices served	1098
No. of Informal Notices complied with	714
No. of Statutory Notices served	139
No. of Statutory Notices complied with.....	65

(2) Supervision of Repairs.

The work done to comply with the notices or by voluntary action was supervised, so far as a depleted staff would permit. The war time difficulty in obtaining workmen and materials was accentuated by the exceptional snowstorm in February, which caused a very great amount of damage to roofs and spouting, downcomers, chimney stacks and soil pipes, in all classes of property. Over 2,000 items of repairs, chiefly to house structures and drainage, were carried out, really essential matters only being possible.

(3) Reconditioning of Dwellings.

No certificates were granted under Section 51 of the Housing Act, 1936, work under this heading being at a standstill.

(4) SANITARY INSPECTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

41 public halls, theatres, etc., are subject to annual licences by the Licensing Justices, and before the licences were renewed, certificates that the sanitary conditions were in order were issued.

Nine other halls previously licensed were used entirely for other purposes during the year.

Generally speaking the premises were kept in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

(5) COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no common lodging houses in the Borough.

(6) HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

There are 20 tenement houses in which rooms are let as furnished lodgings, mostly old houses of the larger type.

(7) OFFENSIVE TRADES AND KNACKERS.

Tallow and Fat Melters	3
Gut Scrapers and Tripe Preparers	1
Fish Friers.....	75
Marine Store Dealers	7
	—
	86
	—

These premises were found to be satisfactorily conducted.

Knacker's Yard.

1,386 horses, 173 cattle, 842 cows, and 12 sheep were disposed of at Dobson's Knacker's Yard, South Shore Road. The premises were kept in a satisfactory condition and no complaints were received.

(8) BAKEHOUSES.

Factory Bakehouses with mechanical power	14
Factory Bakehouses	68
	—
	82
	—

The sanitary conditions on inspection were generally satisfactory.

There are no underground bakehouses in the Borough.

(9) SHOPS INSPECTION.

Under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, 197 visits were made to inspect sanitary conveniences and other arrangements for the welfare of persons employed.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs

Visits of inspection were paid to premises where fertilisers and feeding stuffs were made and sold.

(10) MERCHANTISE MARKS ACT

Action under this heading was unnecessary.

(11) RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.

Work under this heading was carried out throughout the year, and 159 visits made to houses and other premises reported to be infested. The remedy of drainage and housing defects together with the use of various types of poison baits, rat lime, traps, etc., resulted in most of the premises being cleared. 153 rats were caught by rat-lime.

(12) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**Particulars of the Action Taken for the Eradication of Bed Bugs.****(1) The number of :—**

(a) Council Houses	15
(b) Other Houses.....	18
(i) Found infested	33
(ii) Disinfested	33

(2) The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs were as set out in previous reports.

Other Verminous Conditions.

Advice was also sought by 35 tenants complaining of infestation of beetles, etc. In bad cases, floors, skirting boards and hearths were taken up, and all cavities and woodwork sprayed with insecticides ; in other cases, insecticide powder was given.

(13) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Work under this heading was suspended during the year.

(14) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

579 visits were made to the cases of infectious disease notified to the Medical Officer of Health. Housing conditions, means of isolation, milk supply, etc., were enquired into, as were also cases of food poisoning.

(15) FACTORIES ACTS, 1901 and 1937.

Several notices as to sanitary accommodation, etc., were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, and were attended to.

War Conditions.

The Sanitary staff carried out inspections of billets occupied by various branches of H.M. Forces and dealt with sanitary requirements.

Disinfection of rooms, blankets and clothing was done as required, and the Cleansing Department made efficient arrangements for the removal of refuse and salvage. Stoppages and structural defects in drains and sewers were promptly dealt with by the Borough Engineer's Department.

Public Air Raid Shelters.

The shelters were not allowed to be used for sleeping purposes prior to "alert" signals, as up to the end of the year no occasion had arisen on a scale to warrant such use.

As a result of many complaints of misuse and wilful damage to lighting fixtures, entrance doors, seats, etc., a full-time A.R.P. warden was appointed as Inspector of Shelters, reporting daily to the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

He made 2,694 visits during the day time, and all "alert" periods, and his reports as to defects were referred to the departments concerned with remedial action.

Food Decontamination.

A scheme for the examination, treatment and disposal of gas contaminated foodstuffs has been approved by the Ministry of Food, and is briefly as follows :—

District Sanitary Inspectors Mears, Hogg and Lavender were appointed as Gas Contamination Officers, and have received gas training and taken a course in food decontamination at Kings College.

Eighty men and women were recruited from the food trades and shops and have been trained by these officers in the work of sorting and treating all kinds of food stuffs. Protective clothing for all the staff and a full supply of equipment and materials such as brushes, bleach trays, hosepipes, bins, etc., are kept readily available.

Eight metal lined vehicles and the necessary personnel are earmarked for the removal of foodstuffs for examination and cleansing, and a depot has been arranged for washing and bleaching grossly contaminated foodstuffs; two other depots are also provided for airing and sorting lightly affected materials.

Gas detection and analysis of suspected food has been arranged for with the Public Analyst with the supplementary aid of a local food-works chemist if the situation assumes extensive proportions.

PART IV.—HOUSING.

Little progress has been possible in the housing problems of the town. On the one hand there has been a certain amount of return to the area from the South, to add to our local difficulties, and on the other hand some tenants have been re-housed from slum clearance areas into the houses which the Council were allowed to complete on the High Field Estate.

A. SLUM CLEARANCE.

In 1941, 103 families were re-housed in Corporation houses which were completed or became vacant, in addition to the 1,986 re-housed during the previous 7 years.

Demolition and Closing Orders.

Proceedings under Section 11 and 12 of the Housing Act were taken in respect of 6 individual houses on which Closing Orders were made, and which could not be certified as available under Regulation 68 A.A. (Defence Regulations), 1939.

9 families were re-housed from houses demolished or closed in 1941.

B. OVERCROWDING.

The percentage of overcrowding of families listed in the reports of 1938 and 1939 as 10% has certainly increased in some districts, and particularly in the West and North West Wards.

A number of former residents, mostly married sons and daughters of parents already living here, have returned from bombed areas, together with numbers of workpeople transferred and requiring lodgings. In this way most of the available accommodation of the working class type has been taken up.

To meet this demand some relaxation of the Housing Regulations has been necessary, governed by temporary licences under Section 61.

In the course of surveys for billeting accommodation, to be used in the event of local enemy action, opportunity was taken to note changes of tenancy, on the appropriate housing index cards. In 1940, 1,400 changes were recorded, and this year 2,710, making it obvious that a complete re-survey will be essential in formulating our post-war housing requirements.

No prosecutions were undertaken under the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Acts, but wherever contraventions were discovered the attention of the owner was drawn to the matter.

C. HOUSING NEEDS OF THE AREA.

The estimate of the Report of 1938 was that to re-house tenants of unfit property, 1,388 houses were then required, and to abate overcrowding 1,960 houses, a grand total of 3,348. The cessation of Corporate and private house erection probably means some considerable addition to this total.

D. HOUSING PROGRESS SINCE 1918.

Private houses completed and occupied 1919-1940	4066
Corporation and Housing Association houses completed	
and occupied 1919-1940.....	3482
Housing Association houses under construction at	
December, 1940	41
Housing Association houses completed during 1941.....	41

PART V.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A. MILK AND DAIRIES.

1. Registration and Inspection.

Cowbyres.

There are 8 cowbyres (total cows kept 129). Two of these are licensed for production of "Accredited" milk. There is one small "Attested" herd, but no milk is sold.

Milk Retailers.

254 premises are registered for the sale of milk, principally for sale in bottles only. 27 dairymen, registered from outside the Borough, sell milk within the Borough

2. Purity of Milk.

68 formal samples were taken, of which 6 were adulterated. See Table C.

3. Milk (Special Designations) Order, (1936/1938).

The following table gives the various grades, for which 18 licences were issued.

Producers.

Accredited producers and retailers 2

Bottlers and Retailers.

Pasteurised Milk 1

Dealers.

Tuberculin tested milk retailers 9

Pasteurised milk retailers 2

Accredited milk retailers 4

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF MILK

(1) Methylene Blue Test.

(2) Bacillus Coli Test.

(3) Total Bacteria count.

(4) Tubercle Bacilli test.

S. signifies satisfactory. N.S. not satisfactory.

Grade of Milk	Test 1		Test 2		Test 3		Test 4		Total Tests	
	S.	N.S.	S.	N.S.	S.	N.S.	S.	N.S.	S.	N.S.
Accredited	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Tuberculin tested	3	1	2	2	—	—	1	—	6	3
Pasteurised	—	—	—	—	1	7	1	—	2	7
Ordinary	—	—	—	5	—	5	2	—	2	10
Sterilized	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	3	—
Total	4	1	4	7	2	12	5	—	15	20

SCHOOL MILK SUPPLY.

(included in the above table).

Pasteurised	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	4	2
-------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

So far as the pasteurised and ordinary milk is concerned, the following table is most informative:—

	Coliform Test in 1/100 c.c. (3 tubes)	Plate Count (Organisms per c.c.)	Tubercle Bacilli Test
Pasteurised Milks.			
Sample No. 52	—	382,000	—
53	—	82,000	—
55	—	261,000	—
59	—	500,000†	—
62	—	500,000†	—
63	—	472,000	—
67	—	235,000	—
68	—	206,000	—
69	—	274,000	—
70	—	12,200	—
66	—	—	Negative
Ordinary Milks.			
Sample No. 56	Positive in 3 tubes	500,000†	—
58	„	153,000	—
60	„	500,000†	—
61	„	500,000†	—
58a	—	—	Negative
65	—	—	„

In the case of unsatisfactory samples from sources outside the Borough the Medical Officer of Health of the district was informed of the results.

4. Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders.

Report of Action Taken by the Inspector of the Local Authority.

The Veterinary inspections required by the Diseases of Animals Acts are carried out by the Divisional Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, supplemented by certain local administration of the various Orders and Regulations.

The following report summarises the duties performed by my department.

Live Stock Markets.

Statement of the number of animals which passed through Messrs. Maughan's Auction Marts, Tyne Road East.

	Fat Stock for Slaughter	Store Stock
Cattle	2,213	2,376
Sheep	5,099	—
Calves	302	—
Pigs	4,241	—
Dairy Cows	—	461
	11,855	2,837
		14,692

50 sales are held and one of my staff (Mr. Carter) attended all sales for the purpose of issuing movement licences and for general supervision of cleansing and disinfection.

Irish Animals Order—Authorised Market.

	1941
Cattle arriving	398
Licences issued	24

Copies of the licences were sent to all the receiving Authorities to enable them to check arrival and detention at the farms.

Transit of Animals Order.

Cleansing and disinfection of road vehicles was supervised at Messrs. Maughan's Washing Dock, Redheugh Bridge Road, at which 610 vehicles were dealt with.

Swine (Movement) Orders.

Under these Orders, licences were received or issued as follows:—

	Received and Checked into the Borough	Issued for movement Out of the Borough
Store pigs	89	58
Fat pigs for slaughter	—	—
Fat pigs to markets	12	—
Licences	14	18

Swine Fever and other Scheduled Diseases.

The Borough was free from any outbreaks of contagious disease amongst animals.

Close co-operation was maintained with the Divisional Veterinary Officers, whose advice and assistance were always readily available.

B. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(1) Slaughterhouses.

By the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the eight existing private slaughterhouses became subject to annual licences as from 1st February, 1940, and these were renewed for 1941 for use in case of emergency.

At present all slaughtering is centralised at Newcastle upon Tyne, under Government control.

(2) Inspection of Meat.

At the close of the year there were 7 meat distributing centres in operation, 4 being in slaughter houses, and 3 in unoccupied butchers shops. They were in use by 75 butchers with 110 shops, divided into areas for allocation of supplies.

The distributing centres and shops were frequently visited by the qualified Meat Inspectors, and approximately two and a quarter tons of meat and other foods were condemned as being unsound and unfit for food chiefly due to damage and delay in transit. Wherever possible, salvage for fertilisers, etc., was effected.

Meat Weight.

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Venison	Total
Meat	962	—	232	284	1,478 lbs.
Edible Offals	70	85	360	—	515 ,,
Totals	1032	85	592	284	1,993 lbs.

Other Food-stuffs.

Provisions	887 lbs.
Groceries.....	159 ,,
Fish	300 ,,
	1,346 lbs.

Tinned Goods.

Provisions	1211 lbs.
Milk.....	189 ,,
Fruit and vegetables	273 ,,
Various	50 ,,
	1,723 lbs.

Close co-operation was maintained with the Food Executive Officer of the Borough and the assistance and advice of the Government Departments were readily available.

(3) Importation of Food Stuffs.

At the Hillgate Quay the importation of food stuffs from foreign ports was entirely suspended.

(4) PREMISES IN WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED AND SOLD BY WHOLESALE OR RETAIL.

There were 42 mechanical factories, 91 non-mechanical factories and 265 other premises under inspection, chiefly comprising bakehouses, food warehouses, fried fish shops and butchers shops.

C. FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1929-1938.

Samples taken for Analysis during the year 1941.

A. Official Samples.	Total	Purc	Adulterated	Remarks
Milk.....	68	62	6	See notes
B. Informal Samples.				
Acrated and other bottled drinks	5	4	1	See note
Sweets.....	6	6	—	
Sugar Substitute	2	2	—	See note
Marmalade	1	1	—	
Coffee mixture	6	5	1	See note
Cocoa	5	5	—	
Cheese	1	1	—	
Slredded suet	1	1	—	
Milk preparations with malt and chocolate	2	2	—	
Baking powder	3	3	—	
Self-raising flour	2	2	—	
Custard power	1	1	—	
Bun flour	1	1	—	
Semolina	1	1	—	
Rice	2	2	—	
Ground rice	2	2	—	
Ground almonds	1	1	—	
Cake cubes	1	1	—	See note
Yeast	2	2	—	
Gravy salt	1	1	—	
Medicinal Powders	5	5	—	
Castor oil	2	2	—	
Camphorated oil	3	3	—	
Anti Gas Ointment	5	4	1	See note
Maltoline	2	2	—	
Numol	1	1	—	
Virol	1	1	—	
Dried Milk Regulations.				
Dried Milk	2	1	1	See note
Milk food "G" Brand	1	1	—	
Preservatives Regulations, 1925-27.				
Sausage	2	2	—	
Fish pastes	4	4	—	
Meat Pastes	1	1	—	
Fish Cakes	1	1	—	
Tinned Soups	2	2	—	
Total	146	136	10	

Milk. Two samples deficient in non-fatty solids (1.6% and 1.7%) were not confirmed by the Freezing point test.

One sample deficient in non-fatty solids 5.2%. A further sample, in course of delivery from the farmer was 8.2% deficient. This case was referred to the Durham County Food and Drugs Inspector. One sample was deficient in non-fatty solids 4.2%—it was an abnormal milk, the milk fat being 5.46%. A further sample was genuine.

One sample was deficient in milk fat 30.3%. This sample was taken from a small quantity, and a further sample was found normal.

The attention of the vendors was drawn to the adverse reports.

Coffee. One sample of Tinned Coffee mixture was found to contain 46.5% of coffee. A further sample was found to contain 52.8% coffee.

Aerated Waters. One sample of Orange Crush was composed of 20% Orange Juice with cane sugar. The vendor was informed that it should be labelled "Diluted Orange Juice". Three of the samples contained SO₂ preservatives within the permitted limits.

Anti Gas Ointment. One of the samples was deficient 5.7% in available chlorine and the chemist was advised of the result. The other samples were genuine.

Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1925-1927.

No preservatives were reported in any sample of milk, and in the other samples (Sausage, etc.) the amounts were within the prescribed limits.

The tinned fish and meat pastes complied with the Canned Meat Products Order, 1941, and did not contain preservatives.

Dried Milk Regulations.

Two of the samples complied with the requirements of the Regulations, one was deficient in milk fat 3%.

Other Samples submitted were :—

Chocolate powder tested for metallic content, and which was alleged to have caused illness. Found free from arsenic or any metallic impurity.

Pressed beef suspected of containing horseflesh, but found genuine.

Rag Flock Act, 1911.

One sample was found to contain chlorine within the limits prescribed by the Regulations.

Food Substitutes.

The samples of Sugar Substitute (Sugarine) were found to contain 2.33% Saccharine with light magnesium carbonate. Estimated to be about thirteen times sweeter than sugar. One of these samples was a rice pudding in which sugarine had been used, and alleged to have become a chocolate colour. A test pudding, prepared by the Public Analyst, did not confirm this colouring as being due to Sugarine.

The sample of Cake Cubes were a substitute for glazed Cherries and sold for cake decoration. This article was manufactured under a licence (L/132) from the Ministry of Food. It consisted of dyed Turnip. On being informed of its composition, the vendors withdrew this article from sale.

D. FOOD POISONING.

The following matters were investigated during the year.

On the 10th April, two tins of compressed corned beef were submitted to bacteriological examination as one of the tins had been blown and the other appeared normal. The meat was of a greenish colour immediately below the sealing cap. The bacteriologist found a presumptive count of 160 B. Coli per grammme and a total count of over half a million per grammme at 37°C. No specific pathogenic organisms were found, but the tins were seized as unfit for human consumption.

On the 4th June, a case of suspected food poisoning was notified in a domestic servant who normally worked at Newcastle, but who had been taken ill at her residence in Gateshead. Samples of the faeces examined showed an absence of enteric, dysenteric and food poisoning organisms. The diet prior to the onset of this illness was cooked food entirely, so that it is possible that the symptoms were due to toxic action.

On the 9th August a piece of sultana cake was presented, which was alleged to have caused illness in a family. Bacteriological examination of the sample sent to the analyst proved negative and he reported that the cake was dry and slightly rancid.

On the 11th December a case of food poisoning was notified in a person who had been unwell during the previous week following the consumption of jellied veal sandwiches. The victim had also partaken of tinned salmon at a birthday party. A sample of faeces was examined and B. Aertrycke was isolated. The empty salmon tin and a small tin purchased at the same shop were examined and found to be free of the Salmonella group of organisms. A sample of the original jellied veal had been unobtainable but a sample from a new supply was found to be quite wholesome and free from contamination.

PART VI. PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DISEASE.

A. INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Summary of the cases notified or otherwise coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during 1941.

Disease	Cases	Deaths Regd. in Area.	Removed to Isolat'n Hosp	Deaths in Hospital
Scarlet Fever	146	—	134	—
Diphtheria	375	23	375	22
Enteric Fever	12	—	12	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	—	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	45	3	43	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	—	3	—
Measles	1584	5	27	3
Whooping Cough	793	22	53	9
Erysipelas	44	—	3	—
Dysentery	1	—	1	—
*				
Primary and Influenza				
Pneumonia	257	109	63	9
Other Pneumonia	—			
Tuberculosis—				
Pulmonary	208	120	22	1
Non-pulmonary	51	20	2	—
Chickenpox	41	—	2	—
Mumps	68	—	—	—
Rubella	—	—	1	—
Scabies	921	—	9	—
Diphtheria Carriers	55	—	10	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum	1	—	1	—

* The statistics given below this line are not necessarily related to each other. Inward transferable deaths, in addition to the above were 1 Enteric Fever, 1 Cerebro-spinal Fever, 7 Pneumonia, 7 Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 6 Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

(1) Notifiable Diseases.

Scarlet Fever was entirely sporadic in incidence.

Diphtheria. Until the month of June, Diphtheria was of low prevalence, but then the monthly incidence rose steeply to reach a maximum in October and November. There were 23 deaths from the disease, which was of the hyper-toxic type in many cases. During the month of November, the organisms responsible in 52 cases were isolated and typed by Dr. Norton of the Newcastle City Bacteriological Department, who returned the following results, along with which, for purposes of comparison, the results of routine typing in November, 1937, are appended.

	November 1941.	November 1937.
"Gravis" Type	44	35
"Mitis"	4	39
"Intermedius"	1	2
"Atypical"	3	2
	—	—
	52	78

This apparent change in the predominance of the "Gravis" strain is well borne out by the clinical appearance of the cases admitted to the isolation hospital and it is interesting to state also that a similar but slightly less marked preponderance of "gravis" strain have been recorded in the Newcastle statistics upon comparison between 1937 and 1941. By routine swabbing of the school contacts, 55 carriers were detected and 10 of these were taken into hospital—the remainder being supervised at the school clinic.

Following the intensive publicity carried out by the Central Authority, it is gratifying to record an increase in the diphtheria immunisation work of the local authority. Altogether, in 1941, 3,816 school children and 885 children under school age were so immunised. The percentage of children not immunised, however, remains much too high to be recorded with any satisfaction and the work will be continued in 1942.

Enteric Fever. The number of cases of enteric fever includes those cases admitted to hospital for other conditions and proved to have been suffering from paratyphoid fever. Actually there were 8 cases of infections with paratyphosus B. organisms, and these were 1 adult male, 2 adult females and 5 children under 10 years. The disease was of sporadic incidence throughout the year and no definite source of infection was traceable in any case.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. Of 43 cases of Meningitis, 28 proved, on lumbar puncture in the hospital, to be cerebro-spinal fever. Of these cases 3 died.

Measles, of which there were a few cases present in the area at the end of 1940, remained of low incidence until May, when the monthly notifications were—May 231, June 474, July 460. The notifications fell away sharply in August to 98 and by September the disease had apparently again become sporadic, with 24 notifications, but, in the last 3 months of the year, the notifications were in each case over 60.

The deaths from measles, in spite of the widespread epidemic, amounted to 5.

During each of the last four years there has been a fairly severe epidemic of measles.

Whooping Cough. Whooping Cough mortality was high in 1941, due to an epidemic, which gradually increased each month to reach a maximum in the month of June, and fell away sharply in August, to reach a low monthly prevalence of 17 in December. A striking feature of annual whooping cough mortality is alternating high and low mortality figures.

Pneumonia. The number of pneumonia deaths remains unchanged as compared with 1940, but notification of pneumonia appears to have been more satisfactory.

Tuberculosis. Among the cases of tuberculosis, it is worthy of note that 7 cases of tuberculous meningitis were admitted to the Isolation Hospital in 1941.

(2) Non-Notifiable Diseases.

Chicken Pox was of mild prevalence.

Mumps was epidemic in the last 3 months of the year, some 68 cases coming to the notice of this department, in addition to a number of cases occurring in the isolation hospital as "complicating" infections.

Scabies The number of cases of this disease known to the health department increases each year, despite every effort at suppression. In 1941, the astounding figure of 921 cases came to light. One difficulty in dealing with this disease is, of course, the lack of sanitary legislation to compel treatment and disinfection, particularly of adults. Reinfection is therefore a common occurrence.

At the end of 1941, the Ministry of Health brought into force the Scabies Order and steps were taken to enforce the Order by utilising the first aid post personnel and certain schools to track down and examine contacts and carry out necessary treatment and disinfection.

B. TUBERCULOSIS. (Report by S. D. Rowlands, M.D., D.P.H., B.Hy., Clinical Tuberculosis Officer).

1. Statistics.

Primary Notifications received during the year.

208 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 51 of other tubercular disease were notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the year. In addition 6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 of non-pulmonary disease died unnotified.

To be deleted from these numbers are 7 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, where notifications were cancelled as non-tubercular. This leaves a nett total of 207 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 52 cases of other tubercular disease added to the notification register during the year.

The incidence rates for the year (calculated on a population of 106,820) are 1.93 pulmonary and 0.48 other tubercular diseases and a total rate of 2.42 per 1,000 of population. The respective rates for 1940 were, pulmonary tuberculosis 1.92; other tubercular diseases 0.45; total 2.38 per 1,000 of population.

There has thus been no material change in the incidence of tuberculosis during this year compared with 1940.

There were on the notification register at the end of the year 906 patients suffering from tuberculosis (all forms) accounted for as follows:—

Pulmonary cases 336 males	Other Tubercular diseases 86 males
351 females—687	133 females—219

Of the total 259 cases actually notified, 211 attended the dispensary seeking treatment. Out of the 48 cases not seen, no less a number than 32 died shortly after the receipt of their notification, having evidently been in an advanced stage of the disease when the diagnosis of tuberculosis was made. Out of this number 10 (9 children) died of tubercular meningitis.

Of the total notifications received during the year, 66 were notified by the tuberculosis officer and 96 by private practitioners after consultation; so that 62.1% of new cases were seen by the tuberculosis officer prior to notification.

All newly notified cases, whether they attend the dispensary or not, are visited by a health visitor and a report made to the tuberculosis officer on their home conditions.

2. Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1941.

During the year there were registered 128 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 26 from other tubercular diseases, a total of 154, as compared with 146 in 1940.

The death rates (calculated on a population of 106,820) were therefore as follows :

Pulmonary tuberculosis	1.18
Other tubercular diseases	0.24
Total	1.45

The following table shows a comparison of the deaths and death rates for the Borough for 1922-1941 (inclusive).

Year	Total Deaths.			Death Rates per 1,000 population.		
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Tuberculous Diseases.	Total	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Tuberculous Diseases.	All Forms
1922	168	65	233	1.31	0.51	1.83
1923	148	48	196	1.15	0.37	1.53
1924	176	58	234	1.36	0.45	1.81
1925	161	48	209	1.24	0.36	1.62
1926	160	50	210	1.25	0.39	1.64
1927	153	45	198	1.20	0.35	1.55
1928	135	55	190	1.09	0.44	1.53
1929	154	57	211	1.25	0.46	1.72
1930	129	44	173	1.05	0.35	1.41
1931	143	39	182	1.15	0.31	1.47
1932	152	40	192	1.24	0.32	1.56
1933	140	31	171	1.12	0.24	1.37
1934	135	37	172	1.10	0.3	1.40
1935	129	22	151	1.06	0.18	1.25
1936	104	30	134	0.87	0.25	1.13
1937	118	14	132	1.00	0.12	1.12
1938	115	20	135	0.98	0.17	1.15
1939	119	15	134	1.04	0.13	1.18
1940	129	17	146	1.2	0.15	1.36
1941	128	26	154	1.18	0.24	1.45

The age distribution of newly notified cases and deaths is given in the appended table :—

Age. Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—1	--	2	2	--	--	--	2	1
1—5	4	7	9	5	--	2	4	3
5—10	6	12	5	5	1	--	3	1
10—15	6	7	6	3	1	2	1	1
15—20	22	18	5	4	4	11	1	1
20—25	11	22	4	3	10	7	1	1
25—35	24	24	2	5	19	21	1	1
35—45	14	8	1	1	12	1	2	1
45—55	17	3	--	--	20	2	--	--
55—65	9	4	1	--	9	3	1	--
65 and up	3	3	--	--	2	1	--	--
Totals ...	116	110	35	26	78	50	16	10

These figures include all primary notifications, also others coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year from the following sources :—

				Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other Tuberculosis Diseases.
(a)	Local Registrar	...	...	...	2
(b)	Registrar General	...	...	...	4
(c)	Posthumous	...	...	...	—
(d)	Transfers from other Areas (other than transferable deaths)	...	...	...	12
					7

Of the tuberculosis deaths 9 or 5.8% were not notified before death. Of these 6 were certified as due to pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 to other tubercular diseases.

The following table gives details of the interval elapsing between notification and death :—

Under 1 month	38	Under 1 year	19
„ 3 months	17	Over 1 year	55
„ 6 months	12		

It will be seen that 86 or 55.84% of the total deaths occurred within 1 year of notification as compared with 40.41% in 1940.

In an attempt to find cases in an earlier stage of the disease, or to clear up cases where the diagnosis was doubtful, the general practitioners of the Borough were circularised informing them that facilities are available at Whinney House Hospital for immediate X-ray. This clinic has been held each week on Saturday mornings throughout the year and has proved very useful, many quite early cases, especially amongst contacts, having been discovered as a result. Nevertheless still greater numbers could be dealt with, and it is hoped that during the following year practitioners will take greater advantage of the facilities offered.

How great the subsequent fate of a person found to be suffering from tuberculosis depends on the early diagnosis of the disease is evidenced by study of the following table which depicts the present condition of patients notified during the 5 year period 1935-1939 inclusive and the 10 year period 1930-1939.

N.B. PT — means cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, in which tubercle bacilli have not been demonstrated in the sputum.

PT + 1 are early positive cases.

PT + 2 are positive cases in an intermediate stage of the disease, when first diagnosed.

PT + 3 are positive cases in an advanced stage of the disease when first diagnosed.

	Total Cases	Cured	Arrested	Died	Removed	Disease not arrested
5 year period 1935-39 PT — ...	361	—	86 (28.3%)	34 (11.5%)	58	183
PT + 1 ...	30	—	5 (18.5%)	4 (14.8%)	3	18
PT + 2 ...	297	—	11 (3.88%)	137 (48.4%)	14	135
PT + 3 ...	160	—	—	121 (77%)	3	36
10 year period 1930-39 PT — ...	905	204 (32.2%)	113 (17.8%)	135 (21.3%)	272	181
PT + 1 ...	125	11 (10.3%)	13 (12.2%)	58 (54.7%)	19	24
PT + 2 ...	653	12 (2%)	29 (4.8%)	388 (64.3%)	51	173
PT + 3 ...	283	—	1 (0.3%)	232 (85.3%)	11	39

In the calculation of percentages, the number of cases removed during the period has been subtracted from the original total, as their subsequent fate is unknown.

2. Tuberculosis Dispensary.

During the year 510 new cases and 268 contacts were examined at the dispensary for the first time, together with 14 cases inwardly transferred. This total of 792 new cases seen in one year is the highest number recorded, the previous highest being 724 in 1929.

These new cases together with 286 old cases made 4,771 attendances.

Of the 510 new cases (excluding contacts) 157 were found to be definitely tuberculous, 7 were still undiagnosed at the end of the year, and the remainder were referred back to their own doctors as non-tuberculous.

Of the 268 contacts examined for the first time 41 were diagnosed as tuberculous, 1 was still undiagnosed at the end of the year and the remainder were considered to be free from active disease.

During the year 117 cases (78 pulmonary and 39 non-pulmonary) were taken off the dispensary register as recovered from the disease.

Orthopaedic Cases of Tuberculosis.

Hitherto there has been no separate provision made for the institutional treatment of adult orthopaedic cases of tuberculosis. Such cases arising in children have been more or less adequately dealt with at Stannington Children's Sanatorium (where 4 beds are set aside for bone and joint tuberculosis), the Gateshead Children's Hospital and Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle. Nevertheless, even for children there is generally a considerable waiting period before a bed can be found.

The need for the provision of beds for adult bone and joint tuberculosis was emphasised towards the end of 1941 by the occurrence of 3 cases of tubercular spine (2 men and 1 woman). Accommodation in various hospitals in the district was sought without success. Finally, after approaching the Medical Officer of Health for Newcastle, one case was admitted to Newcastle General Hospital, the other two being admitted temporarily to the Bensham General Hospital, under the care of Mr. Stanger, the Orthopaedic Consultant.

Apparently this shortage of orthopaedic beds for adult tuberculous cases is felt in Newcastle also and the Medical Officers of Health of Gateshead and Newcastle have had the situation under discussion in order to try and overcome the difficulty in the near future.

There were registered, at the end of the year, the following cases of bone and joint tuberculosis, which have been sub-divided between active and arrested cases :—

	Adults		Children		Total.
	Males	Females	Males	Females.	
Active	8	2	6	5	21 } 35
Arrested	3	2	6	3	14

Of these the following are receiving treatment at the undermentioned institutions :—

			Males	Females
Children.	Sanderson Orthopaedic Home	...	...	—
	Newcastle General Hospital	...	1	—
	Stannington Children's Sanatorium	...	1	—
	Bensham General Hospital	...	4	2
	Royal Victoria Infirmary	...	1	1
	Deaf and Dumb School ...	...	1 (O.P.)	—
Adults.	Bensham General Hospital	...	2	—
	Newcastle General Hospital	...	1	—

Laboratory.

In the Public Health Laboratory, which is situated in the tuberculosis dispensary building, 437 specimens of sputum were examined, 120 of which were found to contain tubercle bacilli.

As an aid to diagnosis, specimens of sputum are examined in the laboratory free of charge for general practitioners; 94 specimens were examined in this way during the year.

Evening Sessions at the Dispensary.

Evening sessions continued to be held once a month at the dispensary for the convenience of patients who are at work during the day.

Tuberculous Pensioners.

Work for the Ministry of Pensions, under special arrangements in force, entailed the furnishing of 12 certificates and reports with respect to tuberculous pensioners.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been necessary during the year under the above regulations with regard to tuberculous persons employed in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action under this Act, requiring the compulsory removal of patients to a tuberculosis institution was taken during the year.

Home Visiting.

The health visitors paid 262 first visits to newly notified cases and 2,121 revisits, a total of 2,383, to patients' homes during the year. The tuberculosis officer made 91 visits to special cases.

Housing and Sleeping Accommodation of Notified Cases.

178 new cases were investigated, on which full particulars of housing and sleeping accommodation are available.

The following resume of the position is given :—

87 occupied a separate bedroom.
16 occupied a separate bed with others in the room.
75 occupied the same bed as other persons and of these 22 had 1 other person in bed with them.
41 had 2 others and 12 had more than 2 others.

That overcrowding, and thus the opportunity for spread of infection, still continues, is shown by the following figures :—

67 had 2 in the bedroom, 14 had three, 7 had four and 3 had five.

Of the 178 cases investigated, the housing accommodation was as follows :—

One roomed tenement	3
2 rooms	42
3 rooms	39
4 rooms	56
Over 4 rooms.....	38

It will be seen that 78.65% of the new cases occurred at houses having 4 rooms or under.

Owing to the cessation of building of new houses as a result of the war, the work of re-housing tuberculous families had had a considerable set-back. However, accommodation for 22 families was found during the year, the more urgent cases necessarily being dealt with first.

Treatment of Dispensary Cases.

(a) Artificial Sunlight Treatment.

Suitable tuberculous patients continued to be treated at the Sun-ray clinic during the year. Two sessions per week are held for each sex, and the course of treatment prescribed by the tuberculosis officer is carried out by the dispensary nurse.

In 1941 43 patients underwent the treatment :—

Abdominal tuberculosis	4
Other organs	2
Bone and joint tuberculosis	6
Debility in contacts	7
Adenitis	24

This treatment shows good results in both the debility and adenitis groups, and improvement can generally be expected in most cases.

Altogether 196 sessions were held and 982 treatments given to the above patients.

(b) Sanatorium Treatment.

The number of beds available for the residential treatment of Gateshead patients is as follows :—

Barrasford Sanatorium.....	Males 10
Wolsingham Sanatorium	Females 12
	Children 3
*Stannington Sanatorium	Children 20 (temporarily reduced to 15 since the evacuation to Hexham Hydro
**Stanhope Sanatorium	Children 2 (Male)
Whinney House Hospital	Males 27
	Females 21

* Surgical cases occupy a proportion of the beds.

** Extra beds can be taken as and when required.

5. Tuberculosis Care Committee.

The Care Committee continues to render useful services in the care of necessitous patients.

During the year assistance was granted as follows :—

Cases considered during the year :—old cases 40, new cases 25. Clothing outfits provided :—at cost of committee 31, obtained through other sources 22. Cases to whom beds and bedding were loaned 8. Total cases to whom beds and bedding are now on loan 70. Bedclothes loaned 4. Surgical appliances provided :—at cost of committee 4, through other sources 2. Other forms of help (e.g. dentures, spectacles, etc.) obtained for patients through other sources 4.

S. D. ROWLANDS, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,

Clinical Tuberculosis Officer.

C. VENEREAL DISEASES.

Return relating to Gateshead cases treated at the Joint Committee Clinic,
Newcastle General Hospital during 1941.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
Persons under treatment or observation on 1st January, 1941.	80	73	—	—	33	20	15	25	128	118	246
Old Cases. returned.	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	5
New Cases. Syphilis, primary	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	1	14
,, secondary	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	11
,, late	12	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	9	21
,, congenital	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Soft Chancre	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Gonorrhoea	—	—	—	—	54	28	—	—	54	28	82
Non venereal	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	70	59	70	129
Conditions undiagnosed at 31/12/41	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3	2	5
Cases transferred from other areas.	4	6	—	—	7	3	1	—	12	9	21
Totals	117	99	4	—	94	51	78	97	293	247	540
Cases discharged after cure.	10	8	3	—	41	15	70	65	124	88	212
Cases ceasing attendance before completing treatment.	3	9	—	—	9	4	—	—	12	13	25
Cases ceasing attendance after completing treatment but before tests of cure.	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Cases transferred to other centres.	17	8	—	—	14	2	4	2	35	12	47
Cases under treatment on 31-12-41	87	74	1	—	28	30	4	30	120	134	254
Totals	117	99	4	—	94	51	78	97	293	247	540
No. of attendances for medical treatment	1155	1234	11	—	943	557	227	459	2336	2250	4586
,, intermediate	—	—	26	—	2860	368	404	37	3290	405	3695
In-patients											
Admissions.	4	11	1	—	1	1	1	—	7	12	19
In-patient days	119	11	11	—	47	6	17	—	194	17	211

PATHOLOGICAL WORK--

Spirochaete Examinations	43
Smears for gonococci	2218
Cultures for gonococci	16

A. E. W. McLACHLAN, M.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer.

D. VACCINATION.

Mr. T. Middlemast, Vaccination Officer, returns the following summary of proceedings in respect of the year 1941:—

Number of entries in birth lists received during year 1941	...	1557
Vaccination Certificates received.		
a. from private practitioners	...	105
b. from public vaccinators	...	760
c. revaccinations	...	1
Certificates of Postponement received.		
a. Health of child	...	59
b. Conditions of house	...	—
c. Prevalence of disease	...	—
Died unvaccinated	...	96
Statutory declarations of conscientious objectors	...	634
Certificates of insusceptibility	...	3
Cases where parents have removed from area	...	38
Cases otherwise not found	...	23
Number of entries in lists sent to public vaccinators	...	945
Proceedings	...	—

E. CANCER.

There were 173 deaths altogether, two under 25 years, fifteen under 45 years, seventy-nine aged 45-65 years and seventy-seven over 65 years. In seven cases the disease affected the buccal cavity, in ninety-eight the alimentary tract, in 18 the respiratory tract, in 23 the genito-urinary tract and in seventeen cases the breast.

F. WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

Statistics relevant to blindness in Borough residents are given hereunder as at 31st March, 1942.

	Total	Males	Females
Employed (1) in workshops	19	15	4
(2) as home workers	9	5	4
(3) otherwise	1	1	—
Total	29	21	8
Under training (Industrial).....	3	3	—
Trained but unemployed.....	1	1	—
Unemployable	203	93	110
No training but trainable	3	1	2
Total	239	119	120
Children of school age	5	1	4
Total	244	120	124

6 males and 1 female are resident in the Public Assistance Institution.

1 male and 2 females are resident in the Mental Hospital.

Of the unemployed the number of persons over 70 years of age is 97.

Occupations of Employed :—

Basket and Cane Workers	7	Mattress or Mat makers ...	4
Copyists.....	1	Piano Tuners.....	1
Dealers, Tea Agents, etc.....	3	Chair Seaters	1
Knitters	6	Brush Makers	2
Machinist	1	Fendoff Makers.....	1
		Miscellaneous	2
			—
			29

Blind, Physical and Mental Defectives :—

	Total	Males	Females
(a) Blind and Mental Defective	3	—	3
(b) Blind and Physically Defective.....	6	6	—
(c) Blind and Deaf	10	4	6
(d) Blind and Deaf-mute	1	—	1
(e) Combination of (a) and (b)	2	1	1
(f) , , (a) and (c)	1	—	1
	23	11	12

The scheme for domiciliary Medical Treatment of necessitous blind persons was put into operation during the year whereby a necessitous blind person in need of medical attention could obtain same by application to the Health Department. The Public Assistance Committee issued an instruction to the District Medical Officers to attend to such cases. The scheme commenced in June and up to the end of the year, 20 persons received medical treatment.

PART VII. MISCELLANEOUS.

A. PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

31 persons were registered for the sale of poisons listed in Part II of the Poisons List and these were supervised, on behalf of the Council, by the Pharmaceutical Society's Inspector.

B. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

The outline of the arrangements coming under this head and affecting the health department was given in the report of 1940. It is therefore intended to indicate in the present report deviations and changes in the scheme, which has now become part of the renamed "Civil Defence Service" of the nation.

At the end of 1941 the service consisted of an administrative headquarters in the health department, five ambulance and first aid party depots, which were also linked up or associated with first aid posts and one separate depot for voluntary first aid party and ambulance personnel. Organisation during a raid was carried out from the A.R.P. headquarters, which was manned at first, so far as the casualty service was concerned, by three paid whole-time employees, but latterly entirely on a voluntary basis.

(a) Control and Organisation.

The only change of note, as compared with 1940, was the abandonment of the voluntary first aid party depot and the dispersal of the personnel around the other five depots, so that they will work in co-operation with the whole-time volunteers.

During the year a whole-time establishment was retained in three first aid posts only, two posts being manned by voluntary personnel.

Arrangements for staffing the control room continued as before.

The tremendous output of instructions regarding civil defence by way of circulars and the difficulties caused in applying them has thrown an extra burden on local authority officials of the health department. At the end of 1941, it was decided by the emergency committee to try and secure the services of a whole-time medical officer to undertake the organisation and administration of civil defence and so relieve the local authority medical officers to carry out their ordinary duties. Although advertisements were inserted in the press no applications had been received by the end of the year.

The position therefore was that the Medical Officer of Health, besides having the general administration of the civil defence service had also the organisation of an emergency hospital service in his area. This latter responsibility was extended by the appointment of the Medical Officer of Health as Group Officer in the E.M.S. Scheme—Bensham General Hospital, Dunston Hill Hospital and the Children's Hospital being the components of the group.

The Civil Nursing Reserve continued to be administered by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, who was also responsible for the organisation of the first aid posts.

In the management of the first aid party and ambulance service, Mr. G. D. Dickinson, Ambulance Officer, carried out the details of training and operational exercises.

Although many of the sanitary inspectors are actively engaged during the day, they also devote a considerable amount of their free time to assistance in the control room and report centre of the local authority. In addition to their normal duties, certain sanitary inspectors have specific functions in the post-raid services, e.g. billeting of homeless, decontamination of food.

(b) First Aid Posts.

Only the Greenesfield Health Centre, the Carr Hill School and the High Teams Gatehouse continue to be staffed on a full-time basis. The Children's Hospital and the Wrekenton Miners' Welfare Institute being in the hands of voluntary personnel. Voluntary personnel continued to be exceedingly scarce in the area. The paid female attendants at the first aid posts are all nursing auxiliaries from the Civil Nursing Reserve.

(c) First Aid Party and Ambulance Services.

The full-time strength of the parties and ambulances was maintained during the year and an attempt was made to provide for 16 volunteer first aid parties in addition.

During the year the departure of the Reverend P. D. Beckwith to a mission in another part of the country led to some re-organisation of the voluntary first aid parties and the dispersal of the male personnel to act as first aid party members at whole-time depots and female volunteers to the first aid posts.

The vehicles used in the first aid party and ambulance service were better maintained in 1941 than in 1940—thanks to arrangements which had to be improvised by the local authority.

Certain members of the whole-time service are charged with the carrying out of minor repairs and maintenance of cars on the posts and depots, this work being done under the supervision of the transport executive officer.

(d) Emergency Hospitals.

Accommodation is now available for air raid casualties from the Borough, principally in Bensham Hospital and the Gateshead Children's Hospital, and

further provision has been made to provide a reserve of empty beds at the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Dunston Hill, which would relieve the local authority in the event of damage. At the same time, the decision to proceed with the General Hospital at Sheriff Hill was conveyed towards the end of the year and it is hoped that shortly this Institution will take its place among the emergency hospitals available for the town.

(e) Evacuation.

At the end of 1941 the evacuation scheme had reached a static position whereby the originally evacuated children had been reduced to a fairly stable number and all other evacuation, temporary, trickle and emergency, had ceased.

(f) Casualty Information Bureau.

The work of this bureau, originally opened to provide rapid information as to air raid casualties within the Borough, has been considerably extended and is not the province of this department.

(g) Care of the Homeless.

Although this work remains the province of the Public Assistance Officer a close liaison between the Public Assistance Department and the Health Department is maintained and arrangements are made whereby the medical staff of the health department not engaged in A.R.P. operations will be available to assist in the treatment of shocked uninjured homeless persons and also in supervising the cleanliness of homeless persons prior to billeting.

(h) Public Shelters.

As a result of shelter rules issued by the Regional Commissioner, powers exist to see that public shelters are treated by the occupants in such a way as to preserve and maintain any amenities provided. During 1941 a sanitary supervisory air raid warden was appointed whole-time, to make regular inspections of the public shelters and notify any nuisance or defects which had occurred.

Very fortunately although incidents have occurred within the town there had been no serious occurrence worthy of note by the end of 1941.

C. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1937.

54 individuals, appointed to designated posts, were examined by the Medical Staff in 1941.

D. BURNING PIT HEAP AT HEWORTH.

No complaint was made in 1941 regarding nuisance from this source.

E. GATESHEAD CORPORATION ACT, 1938.

3 cases were dealt with under Section 34, whereby powers are provided for the compulsory removal to suitable Institutions of aged and infirm neglected persons.

PART VIII. MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE SICK.

SHERIFF HILL INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL, ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1941.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Table of Admissions, Discharges and Deaths.

		In	Admitted	Discharged	Died	In Hospital 31/12/41
Scarlet Fever	...	19	134	143	0	10
Diphtheria	...	43	386	351	23	55
Erysipelas	...	0	3	3	0	0
Meningitis (all forms)	...	1	71	51	16	5
Pneumonia	...	2	63	54	9	2
Measles	...	1	27	25	3	0
Whooping Cough	...	0	53	44	9	0
Enteric Fever	...	0	8	6	0	2
Dysentery	...	0	1	0	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	0	3	3	0	0
Chicken Pox	...	0	2	1	0	1
Rubella	...	0	1	1	0	0
Scabies	...	0	9	9	0	0
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0	1	1	0	0
Tuberculosis	...	0	24	23	1	0
Miscellaneous	...	3	11	12	2	0
		69	797*	727	64	75

*Includes service cases, 2 merchant navy men and one case from Hebburn.

(a) Patient Days in 1941.

Scarlet Fever	3582
Diphtheria	13751
Other Conditions	8076
Total	25409

(b) Average Duration of Stay of Patients.

Scarlet Fever	24 days
Diphtheria	33 "
All cases	32 "

(c) Beds Occupied during Year.

Average number	69
Highest number.....	103 on 23rd September
Lowest number	42 on 19th March

Comparative Table of Admissions and Patient-Days (1932-1941)

Year	Admissions	Days	Year	Admissions	Days
1932	512	23,128	1937	870	24,083
1933	580	25,795	1938	667	22,026
1934	796	39,182	1939	352	12,379
1935	376	18,700	1940	399	14,088
1936	399	14,944	1941	797	25,409

The work of the hospital was carried out in the two new cubicle wards and in two reconditioned wards and the temporary corrugated iron block, as the east ward block was undergoing alterations throughout the year.

The Institution continues to be a training school, but it was decided to drop the affiliation plan with Whinney House Sanatorium on account of difficulties in fulfilling the criteria of the General Nursing Council in the latter Institution.

A number of cases of tuberculosis, principally children, were admitted during the summer to one of the cubicle wards.

The following clinical record of the cases treated in hospital is included for reference :—

Scarlet Fever.

134 cases admitted and there was no mortality. In 9 cases the diagnosis was revised to :—measles 3, tonsillitis 3, gastro-enteritis 1, no active disease 2.

The following associated diseases were met with on admission :—mumps 3, measles 1, whooping cough 2, diphtheria 1, chicken pox 2, para-typhoid fever 1.

3 cases were of the "surgical" type.

Complications were :—adenitis 15, rhinitis 4, impetigo 2, cardiac murmur 5, otorrhoea 1, broncho-pneumonia 2, rheumatism 1, albuminuria 1.

Most of the cases received some form of specific treatment, either by Sulphanilamide preparations or by antitoxin.

Diphtheria.

386 cases of diphtheria were admitted. In 30 cases the diagnosis was revised to : tonsillitis 17, laryngitis 4, scarlet fever 4, bronchitis 1, quinsy 1, bronchial carcinoma 1, non-infectious contacts 2. The patient with cancer died.

10 of the remaining cases were "carriers" with no sign of clinical disease.

Of the 346 true cases admitted, 22 died, 3 with late heart failure and one with laryngeal diphtheria, in spite of tracheotomy, giving a case mortality of just over 6%.

Associated and complicating diseases occurred as follows :—scarlet fever 2, measles 1, mumps 10, catarrhal jaundice 1.

Clinically, the types of disease were classified as follows on discharge or death of the patients :—

Tonsillar	264
Nasopharyngeal	45
Nasal	7
Laryngeal.....	13
Apparent carriers	15

Complications in these cases were as follows :—myocarditis and heart conditions 45, mild palsy 27, severe palsy 17, albuminuria 17, cervical adenitis 5, otitis media 3, broncho-pneumonia 2, vaginal diphtheria 1, rhinitis 1, phlyctenular keratitis 1.

One persistent carrier was submitted to surgical removal of adenoids, and the operation of tracheotomy was carried out twice, with ultimate success in one case.

Antitoxin was given to 368 cases during the year and in 300 cases the dose was over 80,000 units, the highest dose given being 220,000 units.

One case of respiratory paralysis was treated for a time in the "iron lung", but without success.

11 of the cases of diphtheria treated were second attacks and 7 were our own nurses previously found to be Schick negative. 26 attacks of diphtheria occurred in children previously inoculated against diphtheria, but in 13 of these the course of immunisation had not been completed.

Erysipelas.

2 cases involving the scalp and one case of facial erysipelas were admitted

Meningitis.

71 cases were admitted during the year but the following statement refers to the diagnosis of the 67 patients discharged or died during the year.

(a) True Meningitis:—

Cerebro-spinal fever	29 (3 died)
Tuberculosis meningitis	7 (7 died)
Otogenic meningitis	3 (1 died)
Pneumococcal meningitis	1 (1 died)
	—
	40
	—

(d) Diseases simulating Meningitis.

Meningismus	5
Meningismus plus pneumonia	3
Miliary tuberculosis	1 (died)
Abdominal tuberculosis	1
Influenza	2
Bronchitis	1
Mumps	1
Tonsillitis	1
Paratyphoid fever	2
Acute Nephritis	1
Marasmus	1 (died)
Brain tumour	2
Cerebral thrombosis	2
Fracture of the skull	1 (died)
Streptococcal Septicaemia	1 (died)
Hysteria	1
Normal child	1

This large number of cases suspected of meningitis admitted is due to circularisation of the medical practitioners in the area asking them to send all such cases to the hospital as soon as the diagnosis was suspected in order that the appropriate specific treatment be given early. The results in cerebro-spinal fever, septic meningitis and the other conditions easily justify this procedure, for the true diagnosis can only be made following lumbar puncture and bacteriological examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid, facilities for which are available in hospital. Surgical conditions such as brain tumour were transferred to the department of neurological surgery at Newcastle General Hospital.

Treatment of cerebro-spinal fever has been by the use of sulphapyridine and, in a few cases, with the addition of meningococcus ante-serum. Under treatment with sulphapyridine the cerebro-spinal fluid is clear within 48 hours as a rule.

In one of the cases of otogenic meningitis a modified conservative mastoid operation was subsequently performed with excellent results.

Pneumonia.

In regard to the 63 cases admitted as pneumonia and discharged or died during the year, the diagnosis was revised in 10 cases as follows:—whooping cough 2, bronchitis 1, pleurisy with effusion 1, influenza 1, pulmonary tuberculosis 1, Measles 1, erysipelas 1, cerebral abscess 1 (died), no active disease 1.

The remaining 53 cases were classified as:—

Broncho-pneumonia	27 (4 died)
Lobar-pneumonia	19 (2 died)
Whooping Cough and Broncho-pneumonia ...	6 (2 died)
Broncho-pneumonia	1

The fatal cases of broncho-pneumonia were all under the age of 3 and it was noted that their general nutritional state was very low upon admission to hospital.

The fatal cases of lobar pneumonia were over 47 years of age.

34 of the patients admitted with pneumonia were under the age of 5 years.

Measles.

28 cases of measles were treated in the hospital, of whom 3 died, due to broncho-pneumonia.

In 18 cases the disease was found on admission to be complicated as follows:— bronchopneumonia 1, marasmus 1, tuberculous meningitis 1 (died), measles, diphtheria and bronchopneumonia 1.

The 49 true cases of whooping cough were classified as follows:—simple whooping cough 12, whooping cough and bronchopneumonia 23 (7 died), whooping cough and bronchitis 6, whooping cough and measles 4, whooping cough and scabies 1, whooping cough and "Pink" disease 1, whooping cough and marasmus 2 (1 died).

In 3 cases diphtheria cross-infection occurred and one of these patients died. As in the case of the pneumonia patients it was noted that the children admitted were often in a low state of nutrition and had been the victims of considerable neglect at home. Pertussis Antigen was tried in early cases and in contacts, with good results.

Enteric Fever.

Actually 2 diagnoses were revised and 8 cases of this infection were treated, all being *B. Paratyphosus B.* infections.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

3 cases were admitted and excellent results were obtained by frequent lavage of the eyes with antiseptic lotions and the instillation of Argyrol.

Tuberculosis.

In the summer, 24 cases of non-infectious tuberculosis of the lungs were admitted to hospital for purpose of observation and treatment due to lack of accommodation elsewhere. Bone and joint disease was present in three cases.

Other Infectious Diseases.

2 cases with chicken pox and 9 children with scabies, one soldier with rubella and one case of puerperal pyrexia were also treated successfully. One case of dysentery proved to be gastro-enteritis.

Miscellaneous Group.

These cases were admitted chiefly for observation. Upon the termination of treatment the diagnosis was attached in each case as follows:—

Paratyphoid fever	2
Pulmonary tuberculosis	1
Celiac disease	1
Polyneuritis	1
Vincent's Angina	2
Streptococcal Septicaemia	1 (died)
Cerebral malaria	1
Pemphigus neonatorum	1
Infantile tetany	1 (died)
Mothers admitted with ophthalmia babies	2
Healthy baby admitted with mother	1

The cases of Vincent's Angina reacted to arsenicals injected intravenously and the cerebral malaria to Quinine by the same route.

Other Remarks on State of Patients.

The nutritional state of the patients admitted to hospital is of importance in war time. 17% of diphtheria cases showed some malnutrition and 34% of the cases admitted with pneumonia. In regard to cleanliness 46% of diphtheria and pneumonia patients had verminous heads and a slightly larger proportion had dirty bodies.

Staff of Hospital.

The established strength of the staff was well maintained during the year and a commencement was made with the training of state registered nurses in fever nursing. A great difficulty that upset the hospital, particularly at busy times, was the abnormal amount of staff illness. During the year no less than 30 members of the staff had to be warded for various ailments. Despite routine Schick testing and immunisation of all Schick positive, 6 Schick negative nurses and one immunised nurse contracted diphtheria. "Hospital throat" accounted for 16 illnesses, while mumps affected three of the staff. Various other minor illnesses also occurred.

Bed Accommodation.

The bed accommodation in the extended hospital is calculated to be from 120-150 beds.

Disinfections.

772 houses were disinfected after removal or isolation of infectious disease, and 127 after death or removal to hospital of tuberculous patients. The steam disinfecter was used to deal with 707 charges of infected clothing and bedding. In addition, roughly there were 30 charges of bedding and blankets from firewatching and A.R.P. sources.

Cost of Hospital.

For the year ended 31st March, 1942, the total expenditure less loan charges of £1,005 was £16,755. The cost per patient day was 13/2d. and the cost per bed per annum on a basis of 120 beds was £139 12s. 6d. The established charge to other authorities and to the Services amounts to 9/- per day.

JAMES GRANT, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Superintendent.

WHINNEY HOUSE HOSPITAL.**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1941.****Beds Available.**

Normally the beds available for the reception of patients are 27 males and 21 females suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Occasionally cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (excluding orthopaedic cases) are admitted when necessity arises.

During the latter part of 1941 a greater number of female patients were in need of institutional treatment than males, so that one of the male 5 bedded wards in the hospital was used for the accommodation of these cases.

Table of Admissions, Discharges and Deaths.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis		In Sanatorium 1/1/41	Ad- missions	Dis- charges	Deaths	In Sanatorium 31/12/41
TB+	M.	19	51	53	10	7
	F.	21	45	31	14	21
	Ch.	1	2	1	1	1
TB—	M.	1	14	12	—	3
	F.	1	8	5	—	4
	Ch.	1	7	7	—	1
Other Tubercular Diseases.	M.	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—
	Ch.	—	1	1	—	—
Observation Cases	M.	—	4	4	—	—
	F.	—	1	1	—	—
	Ch.	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	M.	20	69	69	10	10
	F.	22	54	37	14	25
	Ch.	2	10	9	1	2
Totals		44	133	115	25	37

Patient Days in 1941.

Males	6083
Females	7692
Children	1233
Total	

15008

The number of days in hospital of bed-patients (*i.e.* patients having at least two meals in bed) was 11,491.

Average Duration of stay in Hospital.

All cases.....119.3 days
excluding patients in residence under 28 days=146 days.

Average Number of Beds Occupied.

41.12	Males.....	16.6
	Females	21.0
	Children	3.3

The average number of beds occupied by bed patients was 31.48.

Treatment of Cases in Hospital.

(a) Artificial Pneumothorax.

During 1941 22 new cases (11 males and 11 females) were induced in the hospital, 3 male and 2 female cases, induced elsewhere, continued their treatment at the hospital as out-patients. These, together with 37 old cases, were given 631 refills.

		Males	Females	Total
Cases under treatment 1/1/41	...	19	18	37
Cases induced in Hospital ...	...	11	11	22
Cases induced elsewhere ...	...	3	2	5
Cases terminated during the year ...	...	13	14	27
Cases still under treatment 31/12/41	...	20	17	37

The reason for terminating treatment in 27 cases was as follows :—

(1) Disease arrested	...	...	...	9
(2) Inadequate collapse	...	...	...	8
(3) Removed	...	...	...	5
(4) Died	...	...	...	5

Number of refills given during the year :—

(1) Hospital cases in residence ...	...	...	203
(2) Dispensary cases as out-patients	...	...	428
			631

(b) "Gold" Treatment.

This treatment, although not used to the extent it has been in previous years, owing to poor or inconclusive results, is still given to selected patients occasionally, who are not responding to ordinary measures of treatment.

9 patients were treated during the year by injection of gold salts.

5 of these cases showed definite signs of improvement, the other 4 were not benefitted in any way.

Sequelae occurred in 6 cases, viz. :—Albuminuria 2 cases, Diarrhoea 3 cases, Stomatitis 1 case.

(c) Surgical Treatment.

Hospital cases requiring surgical treatment continue to be treated by Mr. George A. Mason, F.R.C.S.

All major surgical operations are now performed at the Shotley Bridge Emergency Hospital or the Newcastle General Hospital.

Since the completion of the operating theatre at Sheriff Hill Infectious Diseases Hospital, minor surgical operations (divisions of adhesions and phrenic nerve operations) have been performed there. This theatre was used on two occasions during 1941.

The following cases were dealt with by Mr. Mason during the year :—

		M.	F.
Thoracoscopy and Division of Adhesions	...	1	3
Thoracoplasty	...	1	3
Bronchoscopy (Non-T.B. conditions)	...	4	1
Radical Toilet (Chronic Empyema)	...	1	—
Gastrostomy (Oesophageal Carcinoma)...	...	2	—
Lobectomy (Bronchiectasis)	...	1	—
Pneumonectomy (Bronchogenic Carcinoma)	...	1	—

It will be noted that 10 cases were operated upon for conditions other than tuberculosis. These were dealt with through the tuberculosis dispensary, because they were originally sent to the dispensary for opinion.

The results following the above operations have been uniformly satisfactory in the tuberculous cases. The non-tuberculous cases have returned to their own doctors.

X-RAY DEPARTMENT.

The following X-Ray examinations were made during the year :—

(a) Hospital patients	337
(b) Dispensary patients	1243
(c) Ministry of Labour and National Service ...	49
	1629

Staff of Hospital.

- (a) **Nursing Staff**—Matron, Sister, 1 Night Nurse (all fully trained S.R.N.), 2 assistant nurses and 4 probationers (untrained).
- (b) **Domestic Staff**—Cook, 1 kitchen maid, 2 house-maids, 2 ward-maids and 1 dining-room maid.
- (c) **Out-door Staff**—1 Gardener (resident), 1 Porter, 1 Under-Gardener (non-resident).

Cost of Maintenance (Year ended 31/3/42).

Actual Expenditure (less loan charges £882)	£6339
Cost per bed per annum	£132 1s. 3d. (£2 10s. 9d. per week)
Cost per patient per day	8/5d.

S. D. ROWLANDS, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.,
Clinical Tuberculosis Officer and Resident Medical Officer.

BENSHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.**(Formerly Sick Wards of High Teams Public Assistance Institution).**

During the year ended 31st December, 1941, 2,126 patients were admitted, 1,778 were discharged, and 388 died. During 1940, 1,960 patients were admitted, 1,611 were discharged and 265 died.

For the first five months of 1941, when the sick wards were administered by the Public Assistance Committee for their own purposes and also as an Emergency Hospital, 972 patients were admitted, 811 discharged, and 195 died.

Dr. Kent Harrison was seconded from the E.M.S. as Resident Surgical Officer, and carried out a large amount of surgical work. He had the assistance of two visiting surgeons employed on the sessional basis by the E.M.S. of the Ministry of Health.

The following statistics relate to admission, discharges and deaths for 7 months—1/6/41—31/12/41, *i.e.* after appropriation.

	Admitted			Discharged			Died		
	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.
Acute Medical.....	75	45	17	61	45	16	16	11	2
Chronic Medical ...	103	87	11	77	63	8	37	50	2
Acute Surgical ...	131	83	55	104	71	49	19	5	2
Chronic Surgical ...	39	40	6	25	23	5	10	12	—
Orthopaedic ...	1	1	24	1	—	23	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—									
pulmonary) ...	19	12	2	7	8	2	12	3	—
(non-pulmonary)	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Skin Diseases ...	20	16	62	23	15	58	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	—	—	12	—	—	12	—	—	—
Maternity (a) ...	—	105	—	—	100	—	—	1	—
(b) babies born ...	—	—	73	—	—	65	—	—	—
Injuries and accide'ts	40	37	25	39	25	24	4	5	1
Healthy children ...	—	1	8	—	1	14	—	—	—
Totals ...	429	429	296	338	352	277	98	87	8

NOTE.—Children = 15 years and under.

Chargeability of patients admitted.

1. Ordinary sick from the Borough	719
2. Public Assistance Sick from the Borough	152
3. Public Assistance Sick from the County Area	33
4. E.M.S. Borough Cases	105
5. E.M.S. County Cases	31
6. Ordinary cases from other areas	73
7. Service cases	41

Out-Patient Department.

No. of patients dealt with	940
(a) patients discharged and attending for after-care ...	82
(b) patients sent by doctors for consultation	225
(c) patients admitted to emergency treatment	98

X-Ray Department.

Number of X-Ray examinations :—

(a) In-patients	266
(b) Out-patients	206

Operations.

(a) by visiting surgeons.....	173
(b) by resident surgical officer	164

Medical Staff.

The following appointments were made :—

Medical Superintendent L. L. Westrope, M.D.

Surgical Staff.

Consulting Surgeon F. C. Pybus, F.R.C.S.

Visiting Surgeons J. Brumwell, F.R.C.S., Eng.
S. Y. Feggetter, F.R.C.S.

,, Radiologist Donald Ramage, M.D., D.M.R.C.

,, Orthopaedic Surgeon J. Kenneth Stanger, F.R.C.S., Eng.

Consulting Thoracic Surgeon ... George Mason, F.R.C.S., Eng.

Consulting Neurological Surgeon, Geo. F. Rowbotham, F.R.C.S., Eng.

Consulting Throat, Nose and

Ear Surgeon F. C. McGuckin, F.R.C.S., Ed.

Specialist Anaesthetists W. J. Phillips, M.B., B.S., D.A.
Joseph Murray, M.B., B.S.

Resident Surgical Officer Arnold Heymann, M.D., Wurzburg.

Medical Staff.Visiting Physicians W. E. Hume, C.M.G., M.A., F.R.C.S.
C. N. Armstrong, M.R.C.P., Lond.

Resident Medical Officer G. A. Sharpe, M.B., B.S.

Clinical Assistants J. C. Arthur, M.B., B.S.

F. R. Dingle M.B., B.S.

H. D. Golder, M.B., B.S.

G. W. Spark, M.B., B.S.

W. M. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B.

Junior Residents One House Surgeon.

One House Physician.

The visiting staff devote one session per week each to the work of the hospital and also attend in emergencies. Other specialists attend when required.

Nursing and Auxiliary. Staff.

The staff of the Public Assistance sick wards continued to function as before, Miss Thirkell, Superintendent Nurse being appointed as Matron. At the time of appropriation the staff was as follows :—

- 12 certificated nurses.
- 35 probationers.
- 6 assistant nurses.
- 4 fully trained civil nursing reserve.
- 19 auxiliary nurses.

On the 14th July, 1941, Mr. R. G. Jones was appointed Steward. A lady almoner was also appointed and she commenced duty early in 1942.

Nursing Examinations.

- 1 nurse sat and passed final examination.
- 8 nurses sat preliminary examination.
- 4 nurses passed preliminary examination.
- 4 nurses failed preliminary examination.
- 1 nurse re-sat the preliminary examination and passed.
- 2 nurses re-sat the preliminary examination and failed.

Accommodation of Hospital.

Ward Block A...6 wards totalling	103 beds.
Ward Block B—4 wards totalling	76 beds.
Ward Block C—4 wards totalling	68 beds.
Central Block—1 ward totalling	14 beds.
Ward Block D—5 wards totalling	90 beds.
Ward Block I—4 wards totalling	100 beds.
<hr/>	
Total	451 beds.

A new nurses' home was opened on 1st September, to provide accommodation for 45 nurses and domestic staff in addition to accommodation for 20 others still available in the old nurses' home. The ground floor of the old nurses' home was adapted to provide accommodation for the junior resident medical staff. Separate quarters are also provided in the annexes of ward block B and C for the resident surgical officer and resident medical officer respectively.

Great difficulty is met with in the hospital in handling the volume of out-patients and accident cases, owing to the lack of a suitable out-patient department. A proposal to erect a small out-patient department incorporating a drug dispensary was submitted to the Ministry of Health, but was rejected on account of the ban on new building operations. Many other desiderata are required such as stores, steward's office accommodation, but it is clearly impossible to provide these during the present emergency. The accommodation used for maternity cases is of a temporary nature pending the erection of the maternity unit in the new General Hospital at Sheriff Hill.

Bensham General Hospital continues to be supplied with cooking facilities, stores, heating, lighting, clothing, etc. from the Public Assistance Institution, any difficulties arising being dealt with by a joint sub-committee of the health and public assistance committees.

The charges for maintenance were fixed at 6/6d. per day for Gateshead residents and 8/- per day for patients admitted from outside the Borough.

The maternity fee was fixed at £3, for a stay of not more than 14 days.

The ambulance charges were fixed as follows :—

- Within the Borough:5/-
- To Newcastle:7/6d.
- Outside these areas:1/6d. per mile.

Not only is the character of the hospital altered but there has been a growing amount of acute surgical work done, with happy results, in a very big percentage of the cases. Scarcely a day passes without the police and the A.R.P. bringing street and other accidents along for attention.

181 serious accidents were admitted during the year to the hospital; 45 of these proved to be fatal and were reported to the Coroner.

Summary of Operations.

Appendicectomy	37	Prostatic Urethra—1 stone removed	1
Cholecystectomy	8	Excision of Cancerous growth from rectum	1
Laparotomy	17	Orthopaedic	45
Prostatectomy	6	Excision of fistula	2
Herniotomy	18	Removal of Varicose Veins	1
Nephrotomy	2	Separation of Obturator Nerve.....	2
Pyelography	2	Reduction of Fr. Rt. Ankle	1
Cystotomy	7	Depressed Fracture of Skull	1
Cystoscopy	5	Fissured Fracture of Skull, Sutured	1
Hysterectomy	3	Compound Fracture of Forearm	
Gastrotomy	4	amputation of lower 2/3	2
Trephining	2	Decapsulation of Rt. kidney	1
Strangulated hernia	8	Resection of Gut	1
Radical Cure for hernia	14	Removal of stone from Rt. kidney	1
Haemorrhoids	19	Compound Colles Fr. Arm, sutured.....	1
Ruptured Gastric Ulcer	6	Amputation of leg	1
Perforated Ulcer	5	Osteomyelitis of Femur	1
Appendix Abscess	5	Post Colporrhaphy	3
Caesarean Section	4	Glands of Neck	3
Curettage.....	16	Mastoid	1
Sequestrectomy	3	Minor operations	502
Colostomy	5		
Intestinal obstruction	2	Total	770

L. I. WESTROPE,

Medical Superintendent.